

DISOBEDIENCE.

A NOVEL.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

BY THE AUTHOR OF PLAIN SENSE.

“ Unlimited obedience is due only to the Universal Father of Heaven and Earth. My Parents may be mad or foolish; may be wicked and malicious; may be erroneously religious, or absurdly scrupulous. I am not bound to mandates, either positive or negative, which either religion condemns, or reason rejects. When I suffer for my own crimes; when I may be sued for my own debts, I may judge, by a parity of reason, of my own happiness. The Parent’s moral right can arise only from his kindness, and his civil right only from his money.”

JOHNSON’S LETTERS TO MRS. THRALE.

VOL. IV.

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DISOBEDIENCE.

CHAP. I.



WITH her mind bowed down with these apprehensions, and her strength over-weighted by the burthen that Mrs. Leeson laid upon it, Mary continued to move slowly forward, scarcely having spirits to raise her eyes from the ground, when the sound of a horse's foot close to her made her start, and the words “Ladies, can I be of any service to you?” assailed her ear, in accents that threw her whole frame into agitation.—She raised her eyes.

" William—my dear William!"—cried she.

" Mary—my beloved Mary—have I found you?" returned William; for it was William himself: and, in the same moment, he jumped from his horse, and clasped her in his arms.

" Oh! save me—save me," cried Mary.
" Take me—take me with you?"

" Never—never will we part," said William: the whole world shall not take you from me."

Mrs. Leeson, who had been nearly overthrown with the violence of the lovers' transports, now began to exalt her voice, and Miss Thornton joined her in the loudest vociferation; each calling out amain for the servants, and threatening the most dreadful consequences both to William and Mary, if they presumed to stir.—But they spoke to the deaf. The servants were all dispersed different ways, in pursuit of the assistance that was wanted:—besides, that they were too well



well used to the exclamations and violence of their lady, to attend much to either, had they reached their ears ; and, as to William and Mary, they scarcely knew, at this moment, that there were such people existing, as Mrs. Leeson and Miss Thornton.

" There is not a moment to be lost," said Mary.

" We will not lose a moment," returned William ; and getting upon his horse, Mary easily contrived, from an eminence in the road, to mount behind him.

" Sit fast," said William.

" Never fear," replied Mary ; and William, putting spurs to his horse, they were out of sight in a moment.

Breathless, both with fear and speed, the lovers were not able, for some time, to interchange a word. Such, indeed, was the tumultuous rapture that filled both their hearts, on finding themselves thus so suddenly and so unexpectedly together, and such

was the astonishment, as well as joy, that they were under, that they could scarcely believe their senses ; while, amid the various emotions with which they were agitated, perhaps the single one of fear was that alone to which they were at that moment conscious.

Impressed with the necessity of flight, they yielded wholly to this impulse ; nor, in the more timid breast of Mary, probably would this have given way to any other, while she had been able to have kept her seat on horseback.

But William's apprehensions of pursuit gave way to his impatience to converse with Mary, and to his fears of her suffering from fatigue. He thought himself able to protect her against all but the authority of a parent, and he knew, that at present he had no reason to fear such an interposition.

Slackening his speed, therefore, " My best beloved," said he, " is it possible ! Have I at last regained you ! "

" Oh !

"Oh! proceed—proceed," cried Mary, "this is no moment for conversation; let us be safe, before we venture to be happy. If we are overtaken, we are separated for ever."

"We are in no danger of being overtaken," returned William; "I have quitted the high road sometime, and I am sure it is not possible that you can any longer support such fatigue."

"I can support any thing, but being again separated from you: think not of me, but make the best of your way to some place of safety."

"There is no place of safety for us," said William, "in England; but happily we are near the sea-coast: if we can reach Whitehaven, we may set sail for Ireland immediately, and thus be placed beyond the reach of our persecutors."

"Do not lose a moment, then," said Mary.—"From Ireland we may return to Llamamon."

"Wherever we go," replied William, "you will not refuse to go as my wife, I

hope, and then we shall have nothing to fear any where?"

"If, in the present circumstances, my dear mother will approve, and Mr. Ellis sanction our marriage, assuredly I shall not make any objection," said Mary.

"Ah! Mary," returned William, "you appeal to those who can no longer be your judges. Do you recollect the state our dear Mr. Ellis had so long been in?"

"Too well," replied Mary; "and I have already anticipated the event: but my mother——"

"She could not survive your loss, and the cruel hardships to which she too well knew that you were exposed.—It is now more than four months past since I followed both her and our dear Mr. Ellis to the grave."

Mary relaxed her hold; her strength forsook her, and she sunk from the horse to the ground.

Quick

Quick as lightning William flew to her assistance ; and, receiving her languid head upon his shoulder, had soon the comfort of seeing her bursting heart relieved by a flood of tears.

" Do not desert yourself, my dearest love," said he.—" Remember that our all is at stake ; and that, if our dear mother could speak from those regions of bliss which she now inhabits, she would exhort you to resolution and to fortitude."

" Oh ! William," returned Mary, weeping bitterly, " *now indeed* my only earthly friend—forgive these tears—forgive this weakness.—Is it not something dearer than a parent that I lament ? A deprivation that seems to rob me of my all—of sanction, and of justification, for all the steps I have taken—for all those that I may take !"

" To the rectitude of your principles—to the purity of your own bosom," replied William, " you may appeal, from the injustice of the world ; and soon, very soon, I trust, you

will allow me to assume a character which will put yours in safety."

" It cannot now be too soon," returned Mary, dejectedly ; " except (added she) you will leave me to my fate ; and, since I have lost her who was *indeed* my parent, suffer me to repair to those who are so only in name."

" Did I not love even the delicacy that wounds me," replied William, " how should I resent such an intimation : but calm your scruples, my dearest love.—I come commissioned from our dear Mr. Ellis, from our lamented mother, to seek you out, and to make you my wife. It was their dying charge that I should do so :—the last earthly solicitude that detained their thoughts from Heaven ;—and since I lost them, I have employed every moment of my time in endeavouring to discover where you were concealed."

" What," said Mary, " is become of my father ?"

" He has left Llamamon for ever," returned William.—" Unable to remain there after

after the loss he had sustained, he sold the dear little cottage, and is gone to live with one of his brothers in a neighbouring county."

"Behold, then," said Mary, "the reason why I wrote so often in vain! And had I even reached Llamamon, how fruitless would have been my journey, and how severe my disappointment? But come, let us resume our way, and quit, with all the haste we may, this now desolated—this inhospitable land."

William tenderly represented to her how unable she was to continue their journey in the manner that they had hitherto pursued it; and that, if she could, their appearance was such as must draw wonder and suspicion upon them, wherever they appeared.—He therefore proposed, that he should lead his horse in his hand, and that they should proceed on foot to some place of shelter, where she might adjust her dress, and furnish herself with a few necessaries, and where they would have leisure to consult on the most

eligible method of making the best of their way to Whitehaven.

Mary had no alternative to propose, and therefore readily yielded her assent. On attempting, however, to move, she found herself so stiff and fatigued, that it was with difficulty, even with the assistance of William, that she was able to support herself. William saw that it was impossible she could, in this state, make any way.—Some place, therefore, where she could immediately repose herself, became the object of his most earnest wishes; and, looking around, in hopes of observing some habitation, of an appearance that promised hospitality, he discovered, at no great distance from the place where they were, yet apart from the public road, a neat and substantial-looking farmhouse; and he instantly proposed to her, that they should there endeavour to procure for her a night's lodging, while he proceeded to some neighbouring town, in pursuit of the necessaries she was in need of; and where he
might

might find out the best method, both as to ease and expedition, of pursuing their journey.

Mary's spirits and strength were by this time so entirely exhausted, that she would not have had power to have opposed whatever he had suggested, even if she had not perfectly approved of the proposal; but to the one he now made she had no objection, and gaining fresh courage, from the hope of more speedy shelter, she began to move with more lightness, and, in a short time, they arrived at the door of the farm-house.

CHAP. II.

WILLIAM undertook to tell their story, and he did it with all the regard to truth possible.—He said, that he was a stranger in that part of the kingdom, and that, as he was pursuing his business alone, he had met with a young person, whom he had formerly known in his own neighbourhood, which some unfortunate circumstance had brought into great distress:—that she was wearied and ill, and that it would be the greatest charity possible, if they would suffer her to repose that night with them, while he fixed upon

upon some means of conveying her safely to her friends, and that he would return in the morning to fetch her.

There was something in this story so extraordinary, and indeed so improbable—for all that is “true is not likely,” that it is not to be wondered at if it were received with more suspicion than confidence; but William had the gift of persuasion. The open candour that was painted in his countenance, the gentle tone of his voice, and, above all, the irresistible power of truth, even when it wears the appearance of falsehood, prevailed. Nor did the appearance of Mary contribute a little to moving the heart of the farmer’s wife in her favour. Her uncommon beauty, her distress, and evident fatigue, lulled asleep every suspicion to her disadvantage, and, after a few moments hesitation, the good woman said, with a gracious smile, “Pray come in; you seem, indeed, very weary, and you are welcome to what this house affords.”

Mary strove to express her gratitude—but she had hardly power to speak, so much was she overcome with grief and weariness.

The kind hostess set before her some refreshment, and began to comfort her the best she could.

William, in the mean while, was making inquiries of the farmer, who just then came in, concerning the next town, and their distance from Whitehaven.

To all these he received very satisfactory answers, and such as put new thoughts into his head; and now he began to feel an almost invincible repugnance to leaving Mary, even for a moment; and at length he ventured to propose, that he also might be allowed to continue at the farm-house all night. He enforced this request by taking out his purse, and saying, that they should be the more obliged to them for their favours, if they would suffer them to pay for them,

them, which they were very able to do.—This offer changed, in a moment, the opinion that the good woman had before entertained of her guests. She had, on the first sight of Mary, implicitly believed William's story, and, without looking for reward, had readily granted an asylum to distress; but now she doubted not but that they were a pair of fugitive lovers, and she thought she discovered, under their disguise, the son and daughter of a lord, or a baronet at least. This idea increased her complaisance and desire to oblige wonderfully, and she replied, before her husband could speak, “Stay here all night? Why not, indeed? I am sure you are heartily welcome, and it would be a thousand pities to part you from this pretty lass, who, I think, you say is *not* your sister.”

“No,” said Mary, “I am not his sister.”

“All's one for that,” replied the woman. “The further asunder now, the nearer you may be hereafter; and so pray sit down, Sir, and eat freely of what's before you.”

Although Mary did not understand the motive which had induced William to alter his plan, yet feeling secure that she might refer all to his discretion and his honour, and being more satisfied to have him near her than at a distance, she made no objection to this new arrangement, and only said, she hoped no delay would be put to their pursuing their journey early in the morning.

William assured her that they would set forward again the first hour she was able to move ; and he then began to sound the farmer, whether he could not accommodate them with a pillion for Mary to ride on, and a guide to conduct them the nearest road to Whitehaven ; which he had understood, from his previous inquiries, to be one way not distant more than twelve miles, but that the road lay across the country, and was difficult to find.

The farmer, who was reserved, and slow of speech and intellect, had scarcely comprehended all that William had uttered, before
his

his readier wife had, with a volume of eloquence, given a full assent to the proposal.

" Little Jack," she said, " should attend, then ; and he knew every inch of the road as well as she did the way about her own house ; and he should ride before the lady, if they liked it ; for to be sure the gentleman had been little used to such things ; and if there was any thing further that they desired, she was sure they might command herself and her husband, and all that they had."

The husband now slowly added, " that, to be sure, such a thing as the loan of a pillion, and a boy to shew the road, he would refuse to nobody who wanted it ; though, to be sure, they were busy enough, as any body might think."

" What do you talk of busy ?" cried the wife.—" Never so well employed, as the parson says, as in doing good ; and I wonder when again we shall have an opportunity of obliging such guests."

Mary

Mary thanked her with a sweetnes and gentlenes that more than ever convinced the good woman of the truth of her conjectures ; and she added—“ And here is, Madam, little accustomed, to be sure, to such clothes as she now wears ; however, she got them on, and they are a little foiled too. It does not become such as I to offer any thing I have to such a lady, but I have linen that is whole and clean ; and all I have is at her service.”

Mary most joyfully accepted this offer ;—and it being agreed that they should set off again by four the next morning, Mary retired to take the rest she was so much in need of. Notwithstanding her fatigue, the anxiety of her mind prevented her from all danger of over-sleeping herself, and she was up and dressed before the appointed hour.—If anxiety had chased sleep from the heavy eyes of Mary, joy had equally kept William waking ; and, on the first signal of her light foot

foot upon the stairs, he met her with an impatience and delight that well justified all the suspicions entertained by the good farmeres.

The horses were soon got ready, and having taken a hasty breakfast, and rewarded their kind hosts beyond their expectations, for their civilities, and the clothes with which Mary had been accommodated, they set off, followed by the good wishes of the woman, who prayed herself that they might elude all pursuit, and humbly hoped they would not forget her when they were in all their glory.

The penetration of this sagacious gossip would have given William and Mary a very serious alarm, had not they hoped that a very few hours would now place them out of the reach of any evil consequences of the half discovery she had made ; and being now left to themselves, and at leisure to converse freely of all of which their hearts were full, they soon lost all consideration for every other subject.

They

They had each much to learn, and both were eager to hear the other.—William however yielding his curiosity to Mary's, first informed her of all that had happened to him since the suspension of their intercourse; and Mary now found, with equal gratitude and satisfaction, that Mr. Ellis's legacy exceeded seven hundred pounds, to which the noble-minded Richard had added another hundred; fifty of which he considered not as a gift, but as a restitution, and the additional fifty he had forced upon William with so much affectionate earnestness, that it had not been in the power of this equally generous creature to refuse it.

“ Is not Mary,” said Richard, “ my own child? What parent has she left, if I am not one? What portion will she have, if I do not provide it? Who do I wrong? and how short is this of what my poor lost Eleanor would have wished to have been done, for the darling of her heart?” William would have resisted

resisted all these pleas ; but the tears, the entreaties of Richard, he could not resist.

Mary wept tears of delight, as she listened to this contest.

"Oh!" cried she, "see here the impotency of riches ! Behold the power of will ! This hundred pounds is a mine of wealth so given. The thousands offered me by that Lord St. Albans were always but dirt and ashes in my estimation.—Happiness, my good friend, is a cheap commodity.—*Too* cheap to be bought, it can only be given.—But proceed, my dear William, let me know all that has been done, that we may the sooner settle what is to be done."

William then proceeded to inform her, that he, having placed all their riches in the hands of his uncle at Bristol, with the reserve of what remained over the seven hundred pounds, bequeathed by Mr. Ellis, he had, with this sum, set out to seek her.

"I

“ I had not,” said he, “ been able to collect any intelligence of all that gave a value to life, since the fatal disappointment of our projected journey to Scotland. I could therefore only direct my research, by what I could learn of Sir James’s family ; and, for the purpose of tracing his movements from the fountain head, I made my first journey into Cumberland.—Here I found, that many months had elapsed since any one was supposed to have resided at Stanwick Castle, except the servants usually appointed to take care of the place.—How false, my beloved, are those presentiments, and supernatural intimations, to which we find so many lay claim ! Or how cruelly negligent was my guardian angel at this important moment.—As I viewed the walls of your prison, no kind spirit whispered, that a spirit, pure as itself, was confined within them :—no compelling influence, for which I could neither account nor over-rule, detained me involuntarily near you. Convinced of the truth of what I was told, I quitted the environs of Stanwick Castle,

Castle, where you were, to seek you in Bedfordshire, where you were not. Here I found that Sir James and Lady Caroline had passed the preceding Christmas at Rookby Park, but that neither you nor Lord St. Albans were with them.—Ah ! my beloved, what fears—what doubts assailed my mind !”

“ If you doubted my truth, or feared my constancy,” said Mary, “ don’t tell me so.—I shall be ashamed to have more integrity than even my lover gave me credit for.”

“ Ah ! my dear Mary,” said William ; “ will you never distinguish ? It is not your merit I doubted, but my own.”

“ And with sufficient cause,” said Mary ; “ if you could add the rack of suspicion to the ordinary torment of separation : but go on :—when you come to hear my story, you will scarcely recognize this mortal, whom you supposed might be cajoled, or terrified out of her honesty, in the high-fouled heroine I shall display to your view ; but how should you plebeians know what we higher order

order of beings, who are descended from Earls and Dukes, are capable of?"

" Well, then," said William, " with all my grovelling suspicions, and plebeian fears in my soul, which were, I confess, almost more than I could support myself under, I repaired to London; for there I understood your worthy parents had removed immediately after the holidays: but " foundations fly the wretched."—My search proved as vain in town as it had been in Cumberland or Bedfordshire. The house in Portland-Place was shut up; the family gone, and no one could tell me where.—Ah! my dear Mary, I confess to your heroic ladyship, that despair now seized me! I gave you over for lost, and thought myself the most wretched of men. At this moment, when I knew not by what rule to direct my inquiries, accident restored the clue which seemed to have fallen from my hand for ever. I saw in a newspaper, amongst the arrivals at Weymouth, the names of the very people whom I had hitherto so fruitlessly sought."

" And

"And did not that cure you of despair for the future," cried Mary, laughing—"when you saw it was amongst the evils for which newspapers furnish a specific?"

"No, no," said William; "the hour for being cured of despair was not yet come:—nor was I to owe such a blessing to a newspaper.—With headlong haste I repaired to Weymouth; and here, indeed, I found Sir James and Lady Caroline; but I found not you:—I even could not find any traces of you. It seemed as if you had never made a member of the family; that you had never been torn from the blessed cottage of Llammamon. Was this a moment for despair to die? an hour for confidence? How often did I ask myself, Is it possible? Has my beloved forgotten all her vows? Is she married to Lord St. Albans? My heart replied in the negative; but then how was I to reconcile your absence from your parents with your silence towards me? I rejected the idea of your falsehood as equally injurious to us both; yet it recurred again and again, in

s spite of myself: it made the torment of my waking hours, and the disturbance of those destined to repose.—It became the ruling idea of my mind; it was about my path, and about my bed.—It attended all my ways, and, like the guilt-raised spectre to the murderer, no fastenings could exclude, no darkness hide, and no company chuse it.— Sometimes, notwithstanding, I hoped I knew not what, and desperately resolute to know the worst, I resolved, at all events, never to lose sight of Sir James and Lady Caroline, until I was fully informed of your destiny.— With this resolution, I took up my abode at Weymouth, and determined to move only as they moved.”

“ My poor William !” said Mary.— “ How much misery would a little more faith have saved you ?”

“ The misery is past,” said William ;— “ and I detail it rather as a confession, than as a claim for pity.

“ While I was suffering under all the horrors I have described, one day, as I was returning

returning from my usual walks of observation, I was startled by the appearance of a servant, in the livery of Lord St. Albans ;— and the next moment a phaeton drove swiftly by me, in which I discovered that nobleman himself, and, by his side, was seated a young and elegantly dressed female. — The motion of the carriage was too swift to allow me to discover the features of the lady, whose face was also covered with a thick veil :—but—forgive me, my beloved—in that moment of irritation I doubted not but that it was you ; that you were the wife of Lord St. Albans ; that I was undone :—but where was then the plebeian blood that is said to flow in my veins, and which ought, at such an instant, to have ebbed back to my heart, from a sense of conscious inferiority ? Where that humble spirit, which, appreciating my merit by my rank, ought to have bowed submissively to my fate ? Where that sense of the advantages attendant on the immaculate preservation of the different orders of society, which they tell us has been felt by

the wife and good of all ages? Where--where? No, my dearest; wrong me not, in supposing that it was with such emotions as these that I was overcome. I felt—I knew myself to be Lord St. Alban's equal; his equal in all that dignifies the man; his superior in all that distinguishes guilt from innocence.—Hitherto I had been scrupulously attentive, to prevent the possibility of being known by any one belonging to Sir James, fearful lest I might increase any rigour practised upon you; but now all caution was forgotten.—Become irrational by despair and jealousy, I thought only of demanding my lost happiness at the hands of my undoer; of reclaiming the rights so iniquitously ravished from me; of asserting my right to *my own*. Oh! my beloved, can you forgive me for that distress, which, had I been the wretch I thought I was, I should have brought upon you?

“Forgive you!” exclaimed Mary.—
“Ah! had you felt—had you acted otherwise, I know not how, even in this moment of happiness, I should have forgiven you.”

“I

"I followed the carriage," said William, "with emotions that, had they lasted many moments longer, must have destroyed me.—It stopt.—I rushed wildly forward, to gaze on that face, which, had it then met my eyes, would probably have deprived me of my sences.—I gazed.—The veil was blown aside—and I beheld—not the features of my Mary, but those of a being, whom I could have fallen down and worshipped as an angel—as my guardian angel.—I turned hastily away, at once to escape all observation, and to seek a place where I might, unrestrained, give way to my transports; but I did not withdraw unseen. It happened that the servant, who came to the door, was one of those who had seen me in the only visit I ever made you in London. He also was the servant who had attended Sir James and Lord St. Albans on that fatal night when I hoped to have received you into my protection at Stanwick Castle. I had that night been happy enough to prepossess him in my favour; and guessing instantly, on the sight

of me, the cause which could alone have brought me to Weymouth, and knowing how fruitlessly I should seek you there, he resolved to have some conversation with me, and to give me all the information in his power. Telling, therefore, one of the other servants, that he recollects an order of Lady Caroline's which ought to have been executed before, he followed me with hasty steps, and soon overtook me. Recovered from my momentary frenzy, I had resumed my caution, and was therefore very eager to escape from my new friend, whom I considered only as a spy. To his salutation of "Pray, Sir, give me leave to speak to you." I replied, I suppose you mistake me for another. I think you can have no business with me."

"Indeed I have," said Robert; "but be not alarmed—I come to you as a friend."

"I know not how I am intitled to your friendship," I replied, "as I know not that I ever saw you before."

"I

"I have seen you, however, Sir," returned he, "and I shall always be happy to serve you and my honoured lady, Miss Seabright."

"I started at your name, and severely reproached myself for having thus, by my unfounded jealousy, exposed you to having your name mentioned, and your actions canvassed by a footman."

"The lady you mention," said I, coldly, "deserves every body's respect; but I see not how she can occasion you to have any business with me, nor how you can be of any use to her."

"You may deny it, if you please, Sir," said Robert, "that you come hither in pursuit of her; but I have not forgotten the adventure of the garden door at the castle: and if I might have followed my own will, I should that very night have proved myself your friend."

"I now saw all further reserve useless;— and having a prospect opened of gaining some certain intelligence of you, I put out my

hand to my friend, saying, “ You will excuse my caution :—if you have really a respect for Miss Seabright, you will approve my shyness, in making her the subject of any conversation : but I am very willing to believe you to be my friend, and shall be extremely obliged to you for all the information you can give me concerning her.”

Robert then said, “ That he could not stay longer with me at that time ;”—but making me tell him where I lodged, he promised to visit me in the evening. Robert was true to his engagement ; and from him, alas ! I learned what was sufficient to convince me that you had suffered the most rigorous persecution ; but I was cheered with the assurance, that your constancy had been proof against all. Of your present abode, he could give no certain information : he knew that you had been left at the castle when Sir James and Lady Caroline had quitted Cumberland ; but he also knew that it was said publicly in the family, and asserted by Sir James and Lady Caroline, that you were then

then placed in a convent in France, for the purpose of learning the language, and that you were to return to England as soon as you were perfected in it, in order to be married to Lord St. Albans. He informed me, that Lord St. Albans visited constantly at Sir James's, with all the appearance of being considered as one of the family; and that the young lady, whom I had seen with him in his phaeton, was his sister.

"But, for my own part (continued Robert) I don't believe a tittle of all this tale: no more does Mrs. Davidson, my lady's woman. It is my opinion she's shut up in some hideous place somewhere, never to come out, except she marries Lord St. Albans: and moreover, I believe this place to be the castle. I'm sure we left her there, with an ill-looking person, as ever I saw;— who I heard tell, when I was there, of a dreadful dungeon some where in the cellar; and I would not answer for it, that she is not pining there this moment; and it was for this that I wanted so much to speak to you;

for I was sure, if any body could, you would release her.

“Although I found it difficult to believe that Sir James and Lady Caroline could carry their cruelty to such an unpardonable height, yet did the words of Robert run through my veins like poison. The idea of the dungeon had gotten possession of my fancy, and I resolved not to lose a moment in seeking you there.

“I knew not how sufficiently to thank my kind friend, much less how to reward him : but, upon this head, he would not hear a word :—all he had done, he said, was for the love of you ; for never had he seen a human creature so pretty, so gentle, and so commanding :—that every servant in the house, except Mr. Wroughton, whom he seemed to think had his reasons for keeping well with Sir James, would have sacrificed their lives for your sake.—Besides (said Robert) I have not forgotten the day when my young lady was first carried away from that place down in Wales there. She wept so

then, that my eyes ran over to see her; and, had I been Sir James or my lady, I would rather have died than have taken her away so much against her will: and I said so then; though James and the rest of them only laughed at me.

" Think you not, my dear Mary, that I loved this true and ardent friend of yours? Could I do less than promise to inform him of the success of my expedition to the castle? He thanked me fervently for this consideration, and left me, that I might set forward on my journey that very night.

" Need I point out to you the haste with which I pursued it? but my haste led only to disappointment. Upon my arrival in the neighbourhood of Stanwick, I was convinced, from information, that I could not doubt that you had been indeed confined there; but I was assured that you were there no longer.—What now was I to hope or think? Hope appeared extinct, and thought useless.—I was returning disconsolate and

wretched, when fortune, as if resolved, with one stroke, to repay all her ill usage at once, restored you to my arms, and enabled me, as I fondly hope, to secure you for life."

" Ah ! my dear William," exclaimed Mary, " let us not talk of fortune : she is the goddess of fools and knaves :—*let us* own a God in all the good and ill of life.—To Him I dare look up as the sanctifier of those vows, that soon I hope to offer at the altar of marriage ; and I dare to call upon Him to bless that life, henceforward to be spent with you."

CHAP. III.

THE lovers arrived at Whitehaven without any accident or hindrance, and were lucky enough to find a ship ready to sail immediately for Ireland. William, therefore, having sold his horse, and rewarded his little guide beyond his hopes, embarked with his beloved Mary ; and, in a few hours, they arrived safe at Carrick-fergus.

William's first care and thoughts were to make Mary irrevocably his.—The means
were

were easy ; and he had soon the inexpressible transport of embracing, as his wife, the woman whom he preferred to every other blessing this world could offer him. Having now, as they imagined, secured their mutual happiness beyond the power of fortune, the newly married pair agreed to make their way to Dublin ; from whence they purposed to sail to Bristol ; and, when there, to regulate their future plans by the advice and assistance of William's uncle.

They took places in one of those vehicles known in Ireland by the name of cars.— William, in this kind of conveyance, consulting the care of Mary, and that economy which henceforward was to regulate their expences.

When, indeed, they thus found themselves united for life, safe from pursuit and molestation, the world, and their way of life before them, and at their choice, they scarcely credited the reality of their bliss.—

They

They looked back upon the past as upon a stormy sea, where little less than a miracle could have preserved them from shipwreck; yet, in feeling their present security, they almost doubted their past danger.

The visions of riches and grandeur that had been held up to Mary, faded from her memory like a dream, and she seemed to have no distinct traces in her mind of any life but that which belonged to the happy period which had passed before her departure from Llamamon; and her thoughts falling again into their original train, she could scarcely believe that she owed her birth to any but her lamented Eleanor and the faithful Richard. She had been careful to equip herself at Carrick-fergus in a brown jacket, similar to that which had been so much the favourite of William: she had resumed her round eared cap, and had tied on her straw hat with a ribbon of his chosen colour; and, as he gazed on her with ineffable transport, “Yes,” cried he, “you are once again my own—

own—my unsophisticated Mary.—Never more let our imagination be troubled with vain dreams of titled tyrants, and splendid misery.—Our industry will secure us wealth and competence: our affection and our virtue will give us happiness.”

Mary pressed the hand of William between hers, while tears of delight stood in her eyes.

“ Oh ! my William,” said she ; “ did I not always foretel that such days would come ? But happiness is a more serious thing than I thought : and I find to be more gay I must be less happy.”

They were now arrived within twelve miles of Dublin, when the driver of the carriage stopt to refresh himself and horses, at a small ale house.—William and Mary, chusing to eat their morsel under the shade of some friendly tree, rather than encounter the dirt and society that the house seemed to offer them, walked on, in order to find some such shelter;

shelter ; and the car driver promised not to be long before he overtook them.

A little coppice that adjoined to the road, soon determined their choice as to the place of their repast ; and William assisted Mary over the stile which led into it :—but scarcely had she set her foot on the other side, than her eyes were arrested by the sight of a woman, who lay immediately before her, and who had every appearance of being dead.

“ Good God ! ” said she, “ look there.”

William, stepping hastily forward, raised the poor creature from the earth ; and Mary, looking earnestly in her face, instantly acknowledged, although disfigured by famine, disease, and wretchedness, the features of her kind and honest Agnes.

“ What is this that I see ? ” said she ? — “ Agnes ? and Agnes in such a state as this ? Does she breathe ? ”

“ Scarcely,”

"Scarcely," replied William :—"yet she certainly is not dead."

The poor creature at this instant gave a deep sigh, and opened her eyes.

"Agnes," said Mary—"Agnes—you have your friends near you ;—be not discouraged. We will succour you."

Agnes turned her languid eyes towards Mary : a faint ray of pleasure enlightened them for an instant : then closing them again, she sunk back in William's arms.

Mary lost not a moment : she poured a few drops of wine, of which she had a small quantity with her as a cordial, in case of need, down the throat of Agnes ; and William rubbed her temples, and the palms of her hands.

"Fly," cried Mary, "for what assistance you can procure.—Vinegar may be had ;—and

and I have been told it is the best thing in the world to revive the fainting."

William gave but one bound over the hedge, and was out of sight in an instant;—while Mary, continuing her cares, had soon the recompense of seeing Agnes again open her eyes; and, in a few moments more, she was able not only to swallow the wine, but a small morsel or two of bread, that had been sopped in it.

The effect that this refreshment had upon her convinced Mary that her disease was chiefly hunger; and she continued to supply her, in small quantities, with a cordial that appeared to be so efficacious. She was now able to support herself against a tree; and, as William returned with two or three other people, had just been able to articulate, "Oh! Madam, I always thought you an angel!"

Afflstance

Affistance was now at hand ; and Mary proposed that Agnes should be carried to the house they had just quitted, and put to bed. Miserable and dirty as it had appeared, she considered that any place of shelter was better than none, and that Agnes was in no circumstances to stand upon niceties.

William had the same thought, and had prevailed upon the car driver to bring his car ; and in this Agnes was easily conveyed to the ale-house.

The people were something less savage than Mary had supposed them to be, and readily furnished her with a room ; which, if not delicately clean, was not, however, disgustingly dirty. Mary here undressed Agnes ; and putting her on clean linen of her own, she made her go directly to bed. There she fed her with warm and nourishing food, in small quantities ; and, in less than an hour, had the satisfaction of perceiving that

she

she had fallen into a sound and refreshing sleep.

This incident detained them unavoidably in the place where they were : but, although they were obliged to suffer the car to proceed without them, they apprehended no further inconvenience from this circumstance than a little delay, as they were assured that they would easily obtain a conveyance in another car, which would pass by the same place the day but one following.

Mary continued by Agnes's bed-side during the night, and remitted no care or attention that she thought could possibly be serviceable to her : and so well did her nursing succeed, that the next morning she found Agnes able to rise ; and she appeared so much recruited, that nothing but the want of a conveyance prevented them from pursuing their journey to Dublin.

Mary

Mary was very impatient to know what had reduced her friend to so pitiable a situation ; and she, being now in a state to satisfy her curiosity, they sought the shade of a large tree, which grew not far distant from the house ; and being all seated under its spreading branches, Agnes willingly recounted her little story.

“ Nothing can be more true, Madam,” said she, “ than that all my misfortunes are owing to my falsehood to you. To be sure, it was sorely against my will that I betrayed my trust ; but I did betray it because I was afraid of evil to myself.—Now I never thought that I was sure to suffer one way or the other, but that it was better to suffer for being honest, than for being treacherous.—If I had thought this, Sir James should have cut me to pieces before I would have told a word ; but it was my after sorrows that made me think thus ; and then it was too late for any thing, but to increase my affliction.—God knows, the bitterest tears I have shed were

were at the thoughts, after all my vaunting, of how ill I had done by you.

"No more—no more," said Mary, interrupting her.—"Perhaps I am the person alone to blame, for whose sake you first broke the trust that is always implied in the relation of servant and master; but we will not discuss this matter now."

"Well," resumed Agnes, "when I was turned out of the castle, I found myself in a strange country, without a friend in the world, and with only five guineas in my pocket. I had no father or mother.—No home to go to, however distant. If I could not find work I must starve; and who would employ a person who had been discharged from a reputable family with so much disgrace?

"I applied to several ladies for a place, but they all required that I should have a character from where I had lived last; and, being obliged to name Lady Caroline, she did not fail to give me such an one as destroyed all my hopes of employment.

In

In the mean time, my money and my hopes wore away. I had removed to a town about twenty miles from the castle, where I was able to procure, from time to time, a little work, but nothing that gave me reason to think I should, in the long-run, escape beggary. In this situation, I fell into the company of a soldier, who was a countryman of mine, and whom I had known very well before I left Wales. I had still a little money remaining ; and, little as it was, I believe it was inducement enough to this person to pretend the greatest regard for me.

“ It was very comfortable to hear any one say he was my friend. I thought I could not be too grateful ; and though I dreaded the hardships of a soldier’s wife, in an evil hour I married him. I had not been his wife a fortnight before I had reason to repent what I had done. Not content with taking from me the little money I had, he made me either pawn or sell nearly all the clothes I possessed. It was not long before he was ordered to join his regiment in the north of Ireland.

“ I

I thought he seemed very unwilling to take me with him ; but, notwithstanding the little reason I had either to love or trust him, I could not determine to suffer him to leave me behind in a worse situation than when he first found me, and with less hope of mending it. I had been told that soldiers' wives were sometimes made laundry women to the officers ; and, as I could work, and wash very well, I did not fear, but that if any body was employed in that way, but that I should have full as good a chance as another. In spite, therefore, of my husband's unwillingness, I resolved to accompany him, go where he would ; but I found, to my cost, that I had better have stayed where I was. He every day grew more unkind and brutal ;—and I sometimes thought he was so, on purpose to drive me from him : and so it proved. When he arrived within twelve miles of his quarters, he plainly told me I must go no farther ; that he had a wife and children where he was going to, and that I should be the ruin of him, if I appeared there as his

wife. In vain I reproached him with his villainy ; in vain I declared, that, cost *him* what it would, I must endeavour to do *myself* justice, and that therefore I was resolved to go on. He replied, I might do so if I would ; but that it would be at the peril of my life, as he would rather run the risk of being hanged for murdering me, than suffer me to accompany him. I had reason enough to think he would put his threat into execution ; and therefore, after much disputing, and more distress than I will trouble you, Madam, with, I consented to accept of five shillings from him, and promised never to trouble him more. I was now indeed the beggar I had feared I should be ; and such an effect had this upon my mind, that in a few days I fell sick. Oh ! Madam, may you never know the misery of sickness and poverty joined ! It would move your tender heart too much, if I were to tell you all I suffered. Ill and feeble as I was, I continued to creep on by slow degrees, meaning, if possible, to arrive at Dublin, and from thence

thence to find some way of returning to my own country :—but hunger, cold, grief, and fatigue, would soon have put a shorter end to all my sufferings, if Heaven had not sent you and your good Mr Challoner to my assistance. You know how you found me ; and you know what I must have been in a very short time, if you had not found me.”

Here poor Agnes ended her narrative with a flood of tears, in which Mary, from a full heart, accompanied her.

The good sense, and modest plainness with which she had related her misfortunes, increased the good opinion that Mary had conceived of her ; and she resolved it should be Agnes’s fault if they parted any more.

“ I should never forgive myself,” said Mary, as she dried the tears that fell from her eyes, “ for the share I have had in your distress, if I had it not in my power to put an end to it : nor can I ever be sufficiently

thankful to Providence, that has conducted me to this place, that I might save a life which would otherways have been lost for my sake.—Yes, my dear William (said she, turning to him with vivacity), we may trace the goodness of Providence through all his ways. How do I rejoice that my escape was delayed to the hour in which I effected it ; that we made Ireland the place of our asylum ; and that we chose to walk on before the car, rather than eat our dinner in that house, which I now find was not half so disgusting as I had supposed it to be.”

William tenderly pressed her hand, in token of his approbation of her sentiments ; and she said (addressing herself again to Agnes) “I am now in the situation which I once foretold you that I should be. I must work for my living : if you are willing to work with me, we will never part, and you shall share in the good that, I doubt not, my industry will procure for me.”

“Work

"Work with you!" cried Agnes, in a transport.—"Ah! Madam, let me work for you.—I ask no more."

"I remember, indeed," returned Mary, "that you said you could follow me all the world over; and, by your grateful affection, I am inclined to believe that you said true. But our travels will not be far. We are returning into Wales, where we shall take a farm, and where, if you please, you shall live with us."

Agnes had scarcely words adequate to her pleasure and gratitude; and Mary was little less pleased, when she reflected that she had thus secured to herself a faithful and industrious friend for every future contingency, and that she had procured a companion of her own sex for the present moment.

CHAP. IV.
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THE next day the whole party proceeded to Dublin ; and William, after having seen Mary and Agnes safely lodged, went out to look after the first vessel that was to sail to Bristol.

In his walks, he met with a person with whom he had passed much of his time, when he was sent to Ireland at the command of Mr. Wynne. This was a gentleman of a clear and well cultivated understanding, with a friendly and benevolent heart, and  
of

of quick and warm feelings. He had lived chiefly upon a small estate of his own, which he had occupied himself.—He had also some mercantile concerns, in which, before the American war, he had been sufficiently successful. The events that happened in the progress of that inglorious dispute, had proved fatal to this part of his property ;—and he now saw himself, at the close of it, reduced to the moderate income that he could draw from his few paternal acres.

Of William he had always entertained the most favourable opinion ; and he had manifested this by every act of kindness and attention in his power. It was with Mr. Eddows that William had passed the only happy hours that he had known during his forced residence in Ireland ; and their pleasure in this unexpected meeting was mutual and extreme.

William communicated to his friend all his past adventures, and all his future

prospects, and earnestly desired that he might have the pleasure of introducing him to Mary.

"I too have my prospects," returned Mr. Eddows ; "but this is no place in which to expatiate on them.—Take me to your lodgings ; let me behold this angel of yours, and then we will talk further what I intend to do, and what is adviseable that you should do."

No sooner had Mr. Eddows cast his eyes upon Mary, than he seemed to become enamoured of her.

The lightness and grace of her form, the intelligent sweetnes of her countenance, the whole of her uncommon beauty, set off by the simple graces of her dress, and the modest obligingness of her manner, made her appear to him something more than mortal.

"Good

"Good God!" said he to William; "is this a creature fit to be doomed to the drudgery of a Welch farm? Can you, for a moment, think of associating her with the farmers wives and daughters of Merionethshire?"

"Ah! why not?" said Mary, eagerly.— "My first years were passed in a cottage;— nor have I ever known happiness but beneath its roof: and do not, my dear Sir, sink me so low in the scale of beings, as to suppose that I know not how to be useful."

"Heaven is my witness," said William, with trembling emotion, "that my heart bleeds when I think of the indigence to which I have reduced this beloved creature; and Mary herself is my witness, that I was ready rather to have broken that heart, than to have imposed it upon her."

"Oh! William," cried Mary, "did I ever think I should hear such words from you? You reduced me to poverty? Was it thus you talked to me at Llamamon?— Should we not once have thought ourselves

not only the happiest, but the richest of people, could we have believed that we should ever possess what we now possess, and possessed it together as man and wife? Whence then arises the cause for pity or regret? Shall the secret of a birth, that has been to me the severest misfortune? Shall the feverish dream of a few months of uneasy splendor make the difference? And shall it not rather serve to make what was once only the suggestions of hope, the wisdom of experience? Shall we not now say upon *conviction*, that happiness is independant of situation? and the offspring *only* of honest affections, industry, and truth?"

She spoke this with a rapidity of utterance, and an earnestness of manner, that left no doubt of her sincere belief in the opinion that she so generously expressed:—and William, overcome with love and gratitude, had need of all his respect for her well-known delicacy, not to snatch her to his heart, and to testify,

testify, by a thousand endearments, the sense he had of her generosity and affection.

"It is wonderful!" cried Mr. Eddows, eying Mary with eyes of admiration and surprise.—"Do me the justice, however, to believe (said he, addressing her) that my sentiments are the same as your own. When I objected to your returning into Wales, there to take upon yourself the laborious direction of a small farm, I meant not to object to a life of industry, but to the scene where that industry was to be exerted. I know that the cultivators of the earth are the most independant and respectable of mankind; but England is no place in which to lay claim to that independance, or to expect that respectability which ought to attend upon such a situation. Society is there too far advanced. Independance is there scarcely to be found in *any* rank. It is assuredly *equally* banished from the highest and the lowest, and respectability is the attendant only upon opulence and power.

" But does the world contain no spot of earth but England ? Does the sun shine only there ? Have you, my dear Madam—has my friend William any particular cause to be partial to that sea-girt isle ? What have you experienced but the oppressive encroachments of artificial rank upon the rights of nature, and of reason ? You have drunk deep of the poisoned cup of aristocratic insolence ? Oh ! turn your eyes to a land where there are no overgrown estates, with rich and ambitious landlords, to have undue and pernicious influence over the actions of their fellow-creatures ; where there are no great lords who possess every thing, and a herd of people who have nothing. Look to a land which is *every bodys'* country ; where nature opens her broad lap to receive the perpetual accession of new comers, and to supply them with food.—Where men possess the land they cultivate, and where human nature has regained its ancient dignity. Deeply injured, and deeply suffering America, thou art this land ? And bleeding

as thou art at thy yet unbound-up wounds, and still stretched on the ground, where thy proud oppressors, though they could throw thee, could not bind thee. Stript as they art of every ornament that peace and affluence could bestow, still art thou more lovely, more desirable in my eyes, than all that tawdry Europe, tricked out with the glittering bawbles of a splendid poverty can offer to my acceptance. Thou hast in thyself the principles of renovation ; Europe those of destruction. Thou wilt rise more vigorous from the contest : thy oppressor, even while she carries her head so high, and marches forward with so proud a step, only hastens to that ruin which she refuses to see. America, I will become thy son, while yet there is some merit in chusing thee for my parent. The time approaches when thou wilt be alone the single asylum for suffering humanity ; and though all may still be welcome to thy shores, none can expect thy gratitude for seeking them."

Me.

Mr. Eddows's enthusiasm made him forgetful that his auditors were not yet touched with the same spirit that actuated him ; but casting his eyes upon Mary, he saw, in her countenance, something of an expression of alarm, mingled with astonishment :—  
Hastily recollecting himself—“ Forgive me, Madam,” cried he ;—“ my feelings run away with me ; but (added he, smiling) I assure you I am not mad.—Nothing can be more sober than my determination to quit Ireland for America, nor more earnest than my wish that I could prevail with you and Mr. Challoner to accompany me.”

William, whose principles and opinions were not very dissimilar from those of Mr. Eddows, turned his eye quick on Mary, to see how she relished the proposal, and had the satisfaction to perceive, across the gloom of thought, which, for a moment, shadowed her brow, a ray of approbation.—She replied, “ I know not why we should be averse from quitting a country where we cannot promise ourselves that we shall find one

friend, while we can go to another which offers us as favourable a field for our industry, in company with a person who appears so warmly to take an interest in our concerns."

" Then—then," cried Mr. Eddows, eagerly, " you will go? will you not? For my own part, I have lost almost my all in this iniquitous struggle between power and right: but I make little of that. My individual sufferings are nothing in the scale of that aggregate of misery and loss, which has been designed and executed by those who never heard the cry of war, or abated one atom of their refined luxury, to soften the evils they imposed. I have still enough left to be free, and happy in America; and I would rather be a cultivator of the earth there, than a prime minister here. I turn, with disgust and contempt, from a country, which, not having magnanimity enough to allow the just claims of a part of its citizens, has wanted the skill and power to inforce its injustice: and I hail, with joy and gratulation, that equitable and truly heroic land,

where

where we have seen the hero quit the trowel for the truncheon ; the printer rise to the legislator ; and the man of peace and modesty become the defender and saviour of his country.”

Mary smiled.

“ I see Mrs. Challoner laughs at me,” said Mr. Eddows ; “ But I should appear more rational to you, my dear Madam, could you know all the details that have come to my knowledge during the sad period of contention, which has ended so gloriously for America, and so disgracefully for England. Could you know the instances of heroic self-denial and suffering, of patience and courage, of exertion and forbearance, that have been manifested by people of all ranks, ages, and sexes, in that oppressed, and now triumphant country, you would not wonder at the warmth of approbation which marks my opinions and my sentiments, nor at my resolution to make one of its citizens.

No

No doubt of it (added he) they have lost, for the present, many degrees of that opulence and happiness that they possessed before the war, but they have secured their freedom, and established their independance. In those two words there are riches and happiness incalculable ; and low as we now see them, much of their lands desolated, and, loaded with debt as they are, we shall, before many years elapse, behold them rise to a rank amongst nations, that will excite the envy and wonder of all Europe. But this prospect will not be your inducement to migrate to America. It is not a great empire that you seek ; it is a well stocked and well cultivated, but not widely extended property of your own : and this I can promise you even now in America. Perhaps the war may have introduced luxury, and a relaxation of morals into the great towns, and the settlements upon the sea coast : but the continent of America may be said to be almost boundless. It is but going back a little, and we shall find the simplicity, frugality, order, industry, and

and virtue, that we seek. We shall find where the idle may be employed, the useless become useful, and the poor rich. Not, indeed, in gold and silver. The cultivators of the back settlements of America will have little to do with these metals : but wealth, of the best and most permanent sort, will be yielded without a fear of disappointment, to the strenuous hand of industry. The wealth of cleared lands, cattle, good houses, good clothes, and an increase of people to enjoy them. There is none of that difficulty of beginning, that contention which oversets so many in Europe. There is room for every body in America. Two hundred miles is a trifle. Where, indeed, is that station which can confer a more substantial happiness than that of an American farmer ? Possessing freedom of action and freedom of thought ! Working for himself. Idleness and poverty, the causes of so many crimes, unknown in his family. Each individual seeking, in the prosecution of his lawful business, the honest gain that supports him, finds every period

of his life filled with the labour that brings plenty, or the pleasure that enjoys it. Industry has here a boundless field to exert itself in, and give mankind the full rewards of their industry; allow them to enjoy the fruits of their labour, under the peaceful shade of their vines and their fig trees; leave their natural activity unshackled and free; and, like a fair stream without dams, they will fertilize every soil on which they tread, and spread cheerfulness and plenty wherever they wander."

"No more—no more," cried Mary.—"I shall think every moment an age until I embark for America."

William's approbation was not less lively or animated than Mary's: and to America, from this moment, it was resolved that they should go. Every reflection that they made served to confirm them in this resolution.

"If there are any people upon earth," said Mary, "whose every tye to their native country

country is loosened, we are those people.—The most sacred bands of nature have been broken to oppress us. I have been abandoned in my infancy by those who gave me birth, and reclaimed only to be made more miserable. You have been treated with the extremest harshness for pursuing the feelings of an enlightened mind, and an ingenuous heart ; and you have had the parental door shut against you, only because you would not resign the inalienable right of chusing for yourself a companion for life. Those who supplied the place of the best of parents to us are no more ! What then should detain us in England ? Its blessings are not made for us. Even now we may be the objects of a pursuit and inquiry, which, if successful, may doom us to punishment, guiltless of a crime. Let us be gone. The world is before us. It is not that we quit a paradise, but that we seek one. It is beyond the Atlantic that nature will resume her rights. It is there we shall find that country, those parents, those friends, those possessions

possessions we should in vain seek for in England. Your kind Mr. Eddows, my dear William, seems the angel destined to conduct us from prison and death to liberty and safety.—Let us not hesitate to follow him."

All the arrangements necessary for this design were soon made. William resolved to repair to Bristol, where, having settled his affairs with his uncle, it was appointed that he should rejoin Mary at Cork, where, in the mean time, Mr. Eddows engaged to conduct her and Agnes. From Cork they were to sail together to America; and, as they were all equally desirous to quit Europe with as much expedition as possible, William lost no time in sailing for England.—He did not forget to inform his friend Robert of the success with which his pursuit after Mary had been crowned; enjoining him, however, to secrecy, until they were beyond all British jurisdiction;—for he still trembled, lest the power of Sir James and

and Lady Caroline should find the means to snatch his Mary from his arms.

William found no difficulty in adjusting every thing relative to his small property, in the most satisfactory manner ; and he had the additional pleasure of receiving his uncle's full approbation to his scheme. The expediency of it appeared more evident, from the intelligence he received at Bristol, that the strictest inquiries had been making both after him and Mary in the neighbourhood of Llamamon ; and, as he could not doubt from what quarter such inquiries proceeded, he drew the inference, that were he and Mary to settle in England, they could not hope to remain unmolested there.

William, therefore, having settled his affairs in England with all the dispatch possible hastened to Cork. Here he found Mary safe and well, under the protection of their good friend Mr. Eddows, who every day grew more and more attached to her, and

and testified his friendship by every means in his power. But William found not only Mary, but, to his infinite surprise, he found Robert also. This worthy person, on the receipt of William's letter, immediately conceived the design of seeking *his* fortune also in America ; and, for that purpose, he had made the best of his way to Cork, where, introducing himself to Mary, he earnestly besought her that she would become his advocate with William, to suffer him to go under his auspices to America. Mary joyfully consented ; and Agnes, having already testified her ready concurrence to the alteration in the plans of those to whom she had attached herself, William and Mary seemed to be provided not only with servants, but friends. Their virtues and their engaging manners had indeed secured to them a treasure, which probably Xerxes would have sought for through his whole numerous train in vain.

Nothing

Nothing now detained this little band of emigrants any longer in Europe ; and William had not been arrived at Cork many days before the whole party embarked in a ship bound for Philadelphia, and said it adieu for ever.

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## CHAP. V.



MARY had promised Anna, that wherever she went, or whatever was her fate, she would not fail to inform her of all that happened to her. This was a duty it was not possible she should forget. She had written

written to her from Carrick-fergus an account of her rencontre with William, and the consequences of it : from Cork she gave her a more circumstantial history of all that had befallen her, and of her plans for the future. She engaged to transmit the earliest and most particular account of her arrival in America, and of every event that might happen to her there :—urging her, in return, not to omit giving her full details of all that concerned herself, and entreating that she would inform her of every thing that came to her knowledge relative to Sir James and Lady Caroline.

As Anna was the single tye by which Mary still felt herself attached to England, so was the farewell to her the only adieu that she had to make ; and the thought that she should never again behold this kind and affectionate friend, was the single regret that rested on her mind.

Of the painful past she soon ceased to think ; and, for the future, she suffered no undue solicitude to rest upon her mind.— She saw William by her side ; she felt herself possessed of every energy of the mind and person ; and she doubted not either of subsistence or happiness.

Mr. Eddows had provided himself with a small but well chosen library ; and William and Mary were still more amply supplied, in this respect, by that which had belonged to Mr. Ellis. They had also furnished themselves with a variety of small comforts, the necessity of which Mr. Eddows had suggested to them, and which could be purchased much cheaper in Ireland or England than in America.

Thus provided, they began their voyage, which proved as prosperous in every respect as the most timid fair one could have desired. They arrived at Philadelphia, and found themselves in a new world.

In

In this city Mr. Eddowes had, however, numerous and respectable connexions ; and he introduced his friends in so favourable a manner, that they soon found themselves in the midst of people who seemed emulous which should do them most service.

"It is new to us," said Mary to William, "to meet with the smile of kindness upon every countenance we look upon : but I think it is very pleasant."

"What happy days must it recall to your mind, my dear Mary," replied William ;— "and it makes me think of those when I used to fly the frowning brows at Llanbeder, to take shelter under the hospitable roof of our dear mother."

Mary sighed.

"Think you," said she, "that that dear friend views us now, and approves of what we do?"

"Doubt it not," said William : and Mary felt herself cheered by the thought.

However William and Mary might owe the kindness of their first reception at Philadelphia to the recommendations of Mr. Eddows, it was not long before the good sense, manly principles, and engaging manners of William, with the beauty, sweetness, and grace of Mary, rendered them beloved for their own sake, and courted for their personal merit. Their society was considered as an honour, and their friendship sought as a favour.

"Dear William," said Mary, "how different would have been our reception in the great metropolis of England, if, *with all our good qualities*, we had appeared there with as little pomp and circumstance as we do here. It must be allowed it is very pleasant to be where society is upon such a right footing."

"It is very pleasant, indeed," returned William, "to be where man is rated according to what he is, not according to what he

has : but do not let us impute the kind reception we have met with wholly to our own good qualities ; let us give some part of it to these hospitable Philadelphians."

" Oh ! " returned Mary, laughing, " I will give them all the merit of having *found us out.*"

But, however flattering or agreeable it might be to them to be thus careffed, and courted by their new friends, yet, as they came not to America to waste their time in partaking of the hospitable festivity of the Philadelphians, it soon became their constant, as it had been their first thought, in what part of that vast continent they should fix their settlement.

The consequences of the war had reduced many families to indigence ; and emigration was the universal topic of conversation.—A variety of circumstances determined individuals in their respective choice, and every person could give plausible reasons why his

choice was the best. William and Mary had no predilection for any situation, and were only to be determined in their option by such circumstances as gave them the best prospect of being soon in a state of ease. To judge of these circumstances was all that they had to do ; and they endeavoured to do this with the best skill they had, and from the best evidence they could procure. But while they hesitated, every day strengthened them in an opinion which they had early formed, of the superior eligibility *to them* of a distant settlement. Their connexion with England was entirely broken ; they had not yet formed any with any individuals in the new world in which they were arrived.—Distance, therefore, from the sea-coast, was a matter of no importance to them. Where they were to fix, they were to fix for life ;—and the affections that were henceforth to grow up in their bosoms, and the tyes that they were to form, were to have their beginning and their progress in whatever spot they should determine to settle. But they  
already found

found the minds of most people in the maritime provinces so irritated by the late contest, and the tide of resentment, and partiality to run so high upon subjects, in which they had but a secondary, if any interest, that they imagined they should best consult their ease and permanent satisfaction, by retiring as far as they could, with a due consideration to other circumstances, from the theatre on which the great scene of the revolution had been acted.

Kentucky now began to be spoken of as a country that offered every advantage that a new settler could desire. Its partizans extolled it as the garden of the world. They boasted of its fruits, its flowers, its climate ; of the variety of its quadrupeds ; the beauty and excellence of its feathered tribe ; of the excellence of its fish. They spoke of the order that was already established ; of the security it had obtained from the inroads of the Indians ; of the importance it had risen to ; of its noble and navigable rivers ; of the canals

canals that were to connect them ; of its trade, which, by means of the Mississippi and the Ohio, was to embrace the productions of the whole globe ; of its surprising natural curiosities ; and, above all, of its agricultural advantages, that pointed it out as a nursery and paradise for American farmers.

This last recommendation rivetted the attention of William and Mary : and Mary's partiality for this distinguished spot was but the more increased, when its detractors, admitting all its rural and natural advantages, treated the notion of its extended trade as chimerical and vain.

She was pleased to hear the canals *were* to be made, that the poterages *were* to be shortened ; the mountains *to be* levelled ;— and the roads *to be* formed.

Already weaned and disgusted by the bustle and tumult of the commercial city of Philadelphia, the hurry and opulence of trade entered

entered not into her ideas of happiness. She heard with pleasure of the unsettled country that yet divided Kentucky from every other settlement ; and she was not unwilling to hope, that the mountains that separated it from the Maritime provinces would prove an insuperable barrier to that influx of foreign commodities that were represented by some as already within the reach of every individual inhabitant of Kentucky.

From comparing the different accounts that their researches procured them, William and Mary were convinced that it was a country that offered every necessary and convenience of life to the hand of industry ; and from the distance, and the natural obstacles by which it was insulated, as it were, from every other settled part of the American states, Mary persuaded herself that the simplicity and innocence of rural life, so consonant to her taste, and so dear to her heart, would linger there longer than in any other part of the continent ; and she declared her

opinion to William, that no where could they fix so much to their happiness and advantage as in Kentucky.

William, whose heart overflowed with gratitude and love to Mary, while he thought, as he scarcely ever ceased to do, on the sacrifices she had made for his sake, and the alacrity with which she entered into every laborious and economical plan for their future life, was unable to form an opinion apart from hers. It was not that he sacrificed his inclinations to those she testified, but that his wishes spontaneously followed hers ; and that what she desired appeared to be most desirable to him. If, therefore, Kentucky was in her eyes preferable to every other part of America, it was so in William's too ; and then it was resolved that they should go.

Mr. Eddows, indissolubly attached by affection both to William and Mary, declared his firm determination to adhere to them,

let them settle where they would.—Nor was his reason less satisfied with all that he heard of this rising state, than his heart was gratified by the thought of remaining with two people, whom, the more he knew, the more cause he found to love.

## CHAP VI.

THE resolution of this little party to make Kentucky the place of their future abode was yet scarcely formed, when there happened a circumstance that fixed them irrevocably in this determination, and opened a prospect to their hopes, that made their

choice, by many degrees, more eligible than they had flattered themselves it could have been.

Amidst the variety of company to whom the hospitality of the Philadelphians had introduced our emigrants, the family of Colonel Humberston had appeared to them most interesting. It consisted of the Colonel, his wife, and three daughters;—the eldest scarcely nineteen, and the other two ten and eleven years of age.

Colonel Humberston had possessed an ample property in Virginia; and, before the war, had lived in ease and affluence. But, as he was one of the first who had taken arms in defence of the liberty of his country, so was he one of those who were most eager in the prosecution of a dispute which he thought justified by every law, moral and divine. Property appeared to him as dirt in comparison with the vindication of his country's rights, and the establishment of her

her freedom. And from this indifference to his personal interest, it had happened, that the struggles which secured independance to America deprived Colonel Humberston of nearly all that he could call his own, his courage and his honour excepted. Yet he beheld himself poor without regret, and lamented only that he had not had more to sacrifice. Even the tenderest affections that ever swelled the heart of a husband or a father, checked not the glow of honest exultation that arose in his mind, when he thought of all he had given to his country.

"I have reduced my wife to penury," would he say.—"I have deprived my girls of their portions—but—I have made them *free*. They may now look around them with the conscious dignity that becomes the citizens of a liberated and independant state; and my wife I hope partakes sufficiently of my spirit; and I trust I have communicated enough of my own blood to my girls, to receive from them all the thanks to which I am

am so justly intitled for the choice I have made.

Mrs. Humberston's heart beat, it is true, in unison with that of her husband. Descended from ancestors who had sought, in the wiles and forests of America, that freedom of thought and action which was denied them in Europe, she had imbibed with her mother's milk the purest principles of republicanism ; and she preferred, with the utmost sincerity of mind, the coarsest ruffet stuff, when worn in a land of freedom, to the most gorgeous garment that could be bestowed by the hand of a monarch. She had seen, therefore, the diminution of their property rather with exultation than repining ; and now that it was almost wholly gone, she appeared more proud of her poverty than the most ostentatious person could have been of their riches. Notwithstanding this decided and vigorous turn of mind, her manners were gentle and feminine ; her heart soft and yielding ; and her temper sweet and obliging.

obliging. — Her two youngest girls, although too young to understand the principles that she had taken pains to instil into their infant minds, had yet caught the spirit of their parents, and could shew with exultation the coarseness of their garments, and tell you that they wore those, because America was free.

But it was not thus with the beautiful Agatha. Educated in the family of a relation who resided at New-York, a weak and vain woman, and an obstinate royalist, she had, by this lady, been taught to connect the ideas of ease and affluence with those of submission to the claims of Great Britain, and of poverty and hardship, with resistance to its will. Every day she found that the part which her father had taken had deprived her of some gratification or of some comfort, and at the moment when her charms drew round her a crowd of lovers ; and the pleasures and luxuries of New-York seemed ready to be poured at her feet, she was told to prepare to depart for a region, separated

separated nearly two hundred miles from every civilized country, by high and rugged mountains, and by wilds almost impassable; a region that was represented to her as exposed to the inroads of the most ferocious savages; a region whose luxuries were the berries of the wood, and the current of the brook; where a wretched log house would be her only shelter, and where unceasing toil would be necessary to preserve a miserable existence.

Who can wonder that the timid and too refined Agatha shrank from such a prospect?

Colonel Humberston had received from the state of Virginia a grant of several thousand acres in the country of Kentucky; and, having collected the little remains of his property, he had taken Philadelphia in his way to that settlement, in order that Mrs. Humberston might see her friends and relations, who resided in that city, before she undertook a journey into so distant a country,

from

from whence it was probable she would return no more. Agatha had been ordered to join the family party ; and she now, after a separation of some years, met her parents in Philadelphia, with a heart half broken by the thoughts of all that she had left behind her in New-York, and all that she was to look forward to in Kentucky.

Colonel Humberston eagerly desired to take out settlers with him ; and he particularly wished them to be such, who, from having some property, would be able to purchase some parts of his lands from him. He no sooner, therefore, understood the situation and the wishes of Mr. Eddows and William, than he endeavoured to allure them by every inducement he could hold out, to accompany him to Kentucky.

Their wishes met him more than half way, and it was soon determined that Mr. Eddows and his friends should join Colonel Humberston's travelling party ; that they should

should proceed all together to Kentucky ;— and, when there, should act as circumstances and events might require.

Of labourers who had families, they were able to collect nearly a dozen ; and over the female part of these Agnes was constituted a kind of governess ; and greater weight was given to her authority, by her having, since her arrival in America, become the wife of Robert, who was appointed the superintendent of this part of the colony.

Every individual of this little society, the drooping Agatha alone excepted, longed impatiently for the time when they might begin their journey.

Mary, who had now fully recovered her natural flow of spirits, felt her heart bound as the moment approached when she was to begin a life of industry, from which she promised herself that degree of affluence, that, according to her notions, provided for every demand

demand of happiness. She thought, with transport, of the new world that was about to open to her view ; of the beautiful and majestic scenes of nature which were to surround her ; of the flowers that were to spring spontaneously at her feet ; of the fruits that were to hang from every tree under which she should repose. She listened with avidity to the wonderful tales of the capacious caves, curiously supported by pillars, and arched by vaults formed by the hand of nature alone. Of the subterranean lakes ; of the precipices of white marble, the banks of the rivers covered with groves of red cedar ; of the springs and ponds of bitumen, which answer all the purposes of the finest lamp oil ; of the amazing quantities of salt springs which constantly emit water that yields the finest salt in inexhaustible quantities ; of those stupendous bones which have hitherto puzzled the inquiries of the most able naturalists.—In a word, to all that variety of beauty and wonder that the enchanted land of Kentucky exhibits to the astonished

astonished and enraptured eyes of an European. She was told of the circumstances that made it probable that this land had once been inhabited by people further advanced in the arts of civilized life than are any tribe of Indians yet known ; and of the opinion that every day seemed to gain ground, that those people were Welch.

“Yes, yes,” would she say ; “we will go to Kentucky.—Who knows, William, but we may yet find some of your cousins there ?”

The spring at length approached, and the earliest days, in which a passage over the mountains was practicable, were fixed upon for the departure of our emigrants.

Three covered waggons were provided, in which it was determined that the family of Colonel Humberston, William and Mary, and Mr. Eddows, with as many of their people as they could accommodate, should travel. The others, with such of their heavy goods

goods as they could not carry with them, were sent off in different manners, and at different times, the general rendezvous being fixed at Pittsburg. As the journey was to be made with all the attention to economy possible, it was resolved that the party should sleep in their waggons—a method of travelling very common in that country, and which may be done not only with the greatest security, but in fine weather with the greatest pleasure. They also provided themselves with camp equipage, meaning to purchase their provisions on the road, and to dress them themselves.

They were not, however, destitute of a few of the less bulky and more luxurious articles which they believed might be necessary either as cordials or as an indulgence. Such as a little tea, coffee, and chocolate, with a little sugar, and a small portion of wine.

The

The disconsolate Agatha saw these preparations with mingled distaste and apprehension : her heart was furcharged with grief for what she left, and overwhelmed with dread of what she was going to : but her grief, her reluctance, and her fear, retarded not the hour of departure one moment.

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CHAP. VII.

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ON the first day of April, 1785, she was compelled, with heavy and reluctant steps, to follow her father and mother into their waggon.—Mingled grief, disappointment, and displeasure, filled her mind ; and when

when she viewed the alacrity and joy with which Mary, who appeared to her as well formed as herself to grace a life far different to that to which she was going, partook in all the preparations and arrangements that were making, she bestowed upon her a kind of wondering censure; and, with a sadness that nearly approached to sullenness, taking her place in one corner of the waggon, she fixed her eyes, bedewed with tears, upon a book she held in her hand, and maintained an obstinate silence.

There could not indeed be a more perfect contrast than that between the feelings of Agatha and Mary. While Agatha drooped in grief and sullen despondency, Mary's heart overflowed with ineffable delight and gratitude. She knew not how to express her sense of the goodness of that beneficent Being who had thus brought her through all her vexation and oppression, to a land of plenty and liberty, where, with the man of her choice, she was henceforward to pass a life of

praise-

praise worthy industry and affluence-giving exertion : where every faculty of her mind and body would have their full scope, and where the progress of time might be marked by a succession of virtues.

A way of life so suitable to her taste, in circumstances so gratifying to her heart, could not but fill her mind with the most agreeable reflections. These were aided by the full proof which she had now attained, that their little property was amply adequate to furnishing them with every necessary requisite to their beginning the work of creation and settlement, with those advantages that would insure its success, or would abridge it of all labour beyond that, without which the rest would be a burthen. In these circumstances, there wanted not the addition of those new and various charms of nature which now opened on every side of her. She was never weary of gazing on the highly cultivated and well peopled scenes with which she was surrounded. The air of  
busines

business and happiness that appeared in every face, joined with a certain conscious self-dependence (that feeling which alone gives true dignity to man), enchanted her. Frequently would she alight from the waggon ; and, hanging upon William's arm, expatiate on the scenes around them ; on their own felicity, on the gratitude it exacted, and the virtues it imposed. But hitherto the country was too busy to draw from her one wish, that here should be her lot.

" This world is too like that we have left," would she say.—" Beyond the mountains I hope to find manners and habits that might have suited the Antedeluvians."

The sight of Lancaster, which would be reckoned a large inland town in any part of England, gave her a fresh desire to get beyond it. The fatigue of travelling she found imaginary ; and she and Mrs. Humberston could not help laughing at all the horrors

and hardships with which they had been threatened by their Philadelphian friends.

But if such were the pleasures that Mary experienced in some of the first days of her journey, the high and impending banks of the Susquehanna, which gave her an idea of savage wildness, beyond any that even Wales could impress, united with the beautiful landscapes which adorned its course, with the various and wonderful forms of the hills, inexpressibly interesting as they were, swelled her pleasure to transport, and left her not the power to think of any thing else.

Hitherto nothing had occurred that even the delicate Agatha could call hardship. If she slept not as soundly in her waggon as in the downy beds of New-York, it was not fear or inconvenience that kept her waking : but the state of her mind was such, as nearly excluded rest ; and, in spite of all that was done to animate or cheer her, she arose every

morning

morning with an increasing paleness on her countenance, and added dejection in her air.

Mary viewed her with the most sincere compassion:—her penetration discovered, athwart the gloom which discontent threw over her, the good qualities of the heart and understanding, which Agatha eminently possessed: but she saw them all in danger of being lost, and perceived the rapid progress that unhappiness was making to moroseness and ill-humour.

"Agatha must not be so lost," said Mary to William; "she is formed to be the brightest ornament of our society:—she must be my friend—my sister; the dearest creature in the world to me next to you, and my trans-atlantic Anna."

"And who shall make her worthy of such a distinction?" replied William.—"At present she appears more suited to be the friend of a Lady Caroline than of a Mary."

"Oh! you are purblind," replied Mary.  
"I shall proselyte her, doubt not.—What!  
at nineteen, shall we give up the cause of  
nature and of truth, because art has been a  
little before hand with us?"

They had now laid in their last stock of provisions previous to their ascending the Allegany mountain; and until they had crossed it (a route of fifty miles), it was not probable that they should encounter any one (except at the stations) but a few straggling parties of carriers, or foot passengers returning from the western country to the Atlantic states.

Agatha now seemed seized with fresh dread; and such was the dejection into which she was plunged, that Mrs. Humberston began to entertain the most lively apprehensions on her account.

In vain were the gaiety and good humour of her sisters; in vain the cheerful sociability of

of the whole party ; fullenly she withdrew into herself, and every attempt to engage her in conversation, or participation in what was going forward, proved a fruitless labour. On Mary alone did she bestow any attention. By degrees she appeared to be sensible of the kindness and delicacy with which she treated her ; and sometimes, in conversation with her, she would appear to take shelter from the cold and silent austerity with which Colonel Humberston treated her :— an austerity with which he thought he ought to mark his disapprobation of a sorrow that he considered as a disgrace to the principles of his family. This was a treatment that Agatha ventured to consider both as unkind and unjust, and she was led to mingle a little resentment with her grief. Nor did she think she had any inducement to be more at ease with her mother. It is true, that she had no reason to complain of any want of softness or indulgence from Mrs. Humberston ; but she knew that she lamented

equally with her father, the political sentiments and refined imbecility, which she was supposed to have imbibed from her aunt ;—and she knew, that with him she foresaw and deprecated all the consequences that must attend both the one and the other, in her present reverse of fortune. She imagined, therefore, that she owed her mother's indulgence more to a feeling of pity than of esteem ; and, while she beheld herself treated somewhat like a wayward child, who is to be allure<sup>d</sup> to her duty, but without any mark of confidence, or reliance upon her principles, she saw Mrs. Humberston enamoured of the character, the manners, and the understanding of Mary ;—her approbation of whom was expressed in so lively a manner, as to be a fresh mortification to poor Agatha. Agatha had been accustomed to praise, and even to flattery : she distinguished not how much she was herself the cause why her mother communicated less with her than with Mary ; and, without seeking to remedy any defects in herself, she pined

pined in secret over the fancied partiality of Mrs. Humberston, and the preference which she imagined that Mary enjoyed in her opinion. As to the rest of the party, the softness of William's manners was footing to her ; but his conversation was upon subjects in which she was resolved to take no interest ; and while she could not always withhold a gracious smile in return for the attentions he shewed to her, she yet seemed resolute not to enter into any intimacy with him. With Mr. Eddows she wished it otherwise. She considered him as properly appropriated to herself ; and, from the notice that she had always hitherto engaged wherever she appeared, she thought it strange, that a young disengaged man should not be eager to attach himself to her. Her vanity was piqued.— And the more she saw of Mr. Eddows, the more her heart lamented this mortification to her vanity.

It was indeed impossible that the beauty of Agatha could be overlooked by Mr.

Eddows. It had, on the first sight of her, made a very sensible impression upon his heart : but his heart had felt the power of love before ;—it had been gained by kindness, it had been lacerated by falsehood ;—it had lost none of the sensibility which it had received from nature ; but it had superadded a degree of caution which put it out of the power of merely a beautiful set of features to betray it again to its undoing. Mr. Eddows intended to marry : he knew that a single man of thirty would be a prodigy in Kentucky, that would be looked upon with equal astonishment and disapprobation. He would have been happy to have found the destined wife under a form so alluring as that which Agatha presented to his eyes ; but, in the character of Agatha, he believed he saw insurmountable obstacles to his happiness ;—and he withdrew his attention from her not only as from a dangerous object, but with that feeling of dislike and disapprobation which is excited by disappointment.

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**CHAP. VIII.**

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TO escape from the marked displeasure of her father, from the humiliating pity of her mother, and the neglect of Mr. Eddows, Agatha now often appeared desirous to quit the waggon, and join William and Mary, who frequently preferred walking over the more rugged paths of the mountains to being cooped up in the close carriage.

One day, as she accompanied them in their walk, she suddenly stopped.

“ Oh ! Heaven ! ” said she, “ I can go no farther.—“ How comes it, my dear Mrs. Challoner, that with a form so exquisitely turned as yours, you can be so shockingly robust ? ”

“ Shockingly robust ! ” replied Mary.—“ Do you know, my dear Agatha, I am much inclined to laugh at you.”

“ Probably,” replied Agatha, “ you are much inclined to laugh at every thing.—I believe you were never serious for half an hour in your life.”

“ Oh ! but you are mistaken.—I have been serious, and even dull as you could desire, for weeks ; nay, for months together.”

“ I am not fond of dullness ; but I confess that I like a character which is more marked by *sentiment* than yours seems to be.”

“ The confession is not obliging,” said Mary ; “ neither is it mortifying : for I can be as sentimental as a tragedy queen upon occasion.”

“ In

"In my opinion, no occasion can excite sentiment more than the present."

"If you mean feeling by sentiment, I am of your mind," replied Mary :—“but can we not feel with a cheerful countenance as well as with a melancholy one? I will engage for it, that notwithstanding my gaiety, I feel as much as you do."

"If it were so," said Agatha, "how could it be, that, in circumstances so similar, our power of enjoyment should be so different? You are as young as myself; your form seems as fragile, and your constitution as delicate. I believe you have left behind you in England more than I have lost in America; yet, while I am pale and sinking with fatigue and dejection, I see your cheek flushed with the roses of health, and your eye sparkle with the scintillations of delight; yet you, like me, are doomed to be for ever buried in the horrid wilderness to which we are going; there to waste your health and strength in laborious exertions, that are to

be alone rewarded by a scanty and precarious subsistence—far, far from all that youth desires, or that beauty and talents have a right to expect."

"My dear William," said Mary, "will you be kind enough to take this cloak to the waggon; it quite oppresses me."

William easily understood the hint; and carrying away the cloak, returned no more.

"Oh!" cried Agatha, as he walked away, "how glad I should be if my father would engage Mr. Challoner in a discourse upon farming; I feel to have a thousand things to say to you, which I would rather he did not hear."

"You need fear no interruption from him," returned Mary; "he has no taste for hearing our beloved Kentucky decried; and he probably will prefer the conversation he finds in the waggon to such discourse."

"Our beloved Kentucky!" repeated Agatha; "and can you so little feel the  
deprivations

deprivations I have adverted to, as to call it so in sincerity and truth?"

"Most certainly," said Mary; "and I trust you will call it so ere long."

"Never!" replied Agatha, firmly.—  
"In one respect, indeed, I can see why you are happier than myself; and perhaps it is this circumstance that shuts your eyes to every other evil."

"You mean, perhaps, in the love of William?" said Mary.

"Not only in his love," returned Agatha, "but in the love of all who approach you:—while my father coldly frowns upon me; while my mother pities, but cannot esteem me; while even Mr. Eddows (added she, blushing) treats me like a baby, I behold you the idol and admiration of them all.—My father declares he never before saw your equal; my mother, alas! prefers you to her own child; and Mr. Eddows looks upon you as the perfection of human nature.—I have been used to be beloved, and to be admired also. Tell me, I beseech you, from whence does

does the change arise, and why are you happier and more regarded than I am?"

Mary, who at this moment felt for the poor Agatha the most sincere compassion, replied, with a tenderness of manner and accent that went to the heart of the susceptible girl—" That I am more regarded than you, my dear Agatha, no one but yourself will allow. That I am happier, arises solely from my education. Had we changed places in that respect, you would see all the advantage on your side with ten-fold interest : since no doubt you would have made more of the opportunities of improvement which I have had than I have done."

" My education," replied Agatha, somewhat piqued, " was the best that New-York could afford. You indeed were happy enough to be born in the highly-favoured Britain, and basked in the full sun of those arts and elegant accomplishments which there lie open to the acquisition of every female.— I have been told that you associated with those

those who fill the most exalted ranks, and that you were even admitted to the presence of your sovereign. Ah ! how was it possible that you should exchange such scenes for the horrors of an American wilderness ?”

“ You would be fully able to answer that question,” replied Mary, “ had you ever been witness to such scenes. The life to which you allude was, while I continued in it, my misfortune ; and, had it begun earlier, or been prolonged later, would probably have been my disparagement. But the education to which I owe all my happiness and my merit, if any I have, I received in a cottage. It is to the lessons that I there learnt, that I owe all I possess, and all I hope for.”

“ A cottage !” repeated Agatha.—“ Are you not the daughter of a man of rank ? and heiress to a large fortune, which you abandoned for the sake of Mr. Challoner ?”

“ You do not know my story, I perceive,” said Mary.

“ I have heard it,” returned Agatha, “ but only imperfectly, and at a time when I thought

thought more of myself than others. If you will tell it me, you will oblige me. It will beguile the present hour, and help me, perhaps, for a few moments, to lose all sense of the future."

" Beguile the tediousness of the present hour!" said Mary.—" Oh! Agatha, look around you, and wonder how you can find those hours tedious which are marked by a succession of scenes the most glorious and intoxicating my eyes ever beheld.—And for the future! it is the thoughts of that future which alone prevents my wishing that this journey, so painful and so wearisome to you, might last for ever."

" I see you," returned Agatha, " every day taking sketches with your pencil of one thing or another, while I have not spirits to look up to see what it is that attracts your notice."

" If you did," said Mary, " you would soon cease to think either of me or yourself. You would be enchanted with what presented itself to your eyes. They too would then

then sparkle with delight. Colonel Humberston would look kindly on you; Mrs. Humberston would no longer have cause to pity you, and Mr. Eddows would find a charm in your conversation."

"But this," said Agatha, a little peevishly, "is not in my power. I cannot think as all those whom you have mentioned think;—and except I could, I know I must not hope for the affection or good opinion of either my father or mother: but, if I cannot adopt my father's principles, I mean to imitate his example, and patiently suffer for my own."

"Ah! my dear Agatha," said Mary, laughing, "how blind have I been to the sublimity of your sentiments: never before did I consider you as a sufferer for conscience sake: but remember, that martyrdom, to be meritorious, should be cheerful. I too am a sufferer for opinions; yet, when you have heard my little history, you shall tell me whether I have not reason to be equally grateful and happy."

While

While Mary detailed the circumstances of her life, Agatha listened with the most fixed attention. She had a perfect reliance on the veracity of Mary, yet hardly knew how to believe that any consideration could have induced her to have given up rank, riches, and splendor, for obscurity and poverty.

"What obligations has Mr. Challoner to you?" exclaimed she; "and how will he ever be able to repay them?"

"On the contrary," replied Mary, "I think the obligation is on my side. In the kind of favour to which you allude, he went before me in the race: and when I consider that the consequence of his faithful attachment to me, is to be a life of virtuous independence and prosperous industry, I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for an affection which has preserved me from moving in that wearisome circle of idleness, servility, and impertinence, which those who are born above the use of their natural faculties seem generally doomed to tread."

"Alas!"

"Alas!" cried Agatha, "how much I wish, since I am compelled to quit all that in my eyes makes life desirable, I could think as you do!"

"I do not despair," replied Mary, "of seeing you some time of my mind. But what is it that you so bitterly regret? Was your life at New-York a life of unmixed happiness? Had it no vexations? No mortifications?"

"Oh! by no means," said Agatha; "I had a thousand vexations:—at times I thought life was made up of nothing else;—but then every body told me I had so much sensibility! My aunt was very fond of me, but she was somewhat capricious; and often, for no reason in the world that I could see, would deny me the most innocent and the most reasonable gratification. Then you cannot but suppose, with my feeling mind, that I could not be insensible to the envy of some, and the malice of others: both the one and the other have sometimes operated to the loss of a ball, or to my mortification

when

when there. Oh ! you have no idea of the falsehoods and calumnies that are circulated in such a place as New-York !”

“ But amongst its inhabitants,” said Mary, “ there were some probably whom you fondly loved as friends ; and *one*, perhaps, that you loved still more fondly, as something dearer than a friend.”

“ No,” returned Agatha ; “ I cannot say that this was much the case. I had a numerous acquaintance, who, I believe, all loved me very well ; and there were some amongst them whom I am sure I loved sincerely ; but the unhappy divisions that this detested war has introduced amongst us broke many of those ties ; and besides, when my fortune began to decline, I found it quite another thing to what it was, when I was at the height of my prosperity.”

“ But,” said Mary, “ you had numerous admirers.—“ May I ask, had you no one whom you distinguished from the rest ?”

“ Oh ! several ; but none in the way that I believe you mean.—I had no William.—

Indeed,

Indeed, while I was happy, I had no time to attach myself to any one exclusively.—What between a round of amusements, and preparations for amusement, I often had scarcely leisure to eat or sleep."

"What then were your hopes for the future?" said Mary.

"I did not think much about it," replied Agatha.—"My aunt, indeed, told me I could not fail to form an establishment at once brilliant and happy, and such as would make me the envy of all my companions;—and when I thought of the matter, my hopes were, that this establishment might be in New-York; but I have reason to think that my aunt flattered herself I should charm some English officer of fortune, and that I should be transported to England; but this would have been a very sensible grief to me; and I never thought of the possibility of it without pain."

"May I now repeat my question," said Mary.—"What is it that you regret?"

Agatha

"Agatha paused.—‘What is it that I regret?’ said she.—‘Why—why—have I not told you?’

"Hitherto," said Mary, "I have heard only of the restraint your aunt kept you in; of the malice, envy, and instability of your companions; of time being so occupied as not to allow you to take the necessary refreshments of life; of vague and indeterminate projects, which were yet so contrary one to another, that probably had they taken a more certain form, they would have been the cause of the sharpest disagreement between you and the person who had fostered and brought you up from your infancy.—Again, therefore, I say, what is it that you regret?"

"Bless me!" said Agatha, "it is my fortune; my station in life that I regret; is it not?"

"Fortune and station are not happiness," replied Mary, "as I know full well.—They are only the means of it; and if they have not produced that end, are not, when lost,

objects of regret. Has this war, which you so anathematise, and which appears to me so just in its principle, and so glorious in its issue, has it robbed you of one personal charm, of one mental distinction? Are you not still more lovely than half of your sex? Is not your understanding acute?—Your heart good? Have you not still your health, your limbs, your faculties? and, in having these, have you not every requisite for happiness—and for virtue, that essential part of happiness, still in your possession?"

" If I could flatter myself," said Agatha, smiling, " with half the excellence and charms that your kindness imputes to me, I should be indeed at a loss to tell you what I regret; for, with such advantages, it would not be difficult to make friends, and find happiness wherever I went.—But, alas! I am a creature with some few attractions, perhaps, but with no useful qualities, and therefore totally unfit for the life I am going to lead—then I shall be useless; and, because useless, despised."

" But

"But why, my dear Agatha, useless?" asked Mary.—"Have you not all the means of being useful that health, and strength, and youth can give?"

"I am very delicate," said Agatha.—"You see how this journey destroys me."

"I really see no such thing," returned Mary.—"And what are the hardships of this reprobated journey, compared with the toils, and hunger, and dirt, and wretchedness, which I have heard detailed by some travelled ladies, as delicate, my dear Agatha, as yourself? And yet, so far from being ashamed of having survived such toils, they seemed to look upon them as a distinction."

"I am *indeed* very delicate," repeated Agatha.

"You have been told so," returned Mary; "and late hours, and constant dissipation, have, in some degree, made you so: but at eighteen, with our health, our limbs, and understanding, to say we are useless, is to say that which nobody will believe; or believing, will hold us accountable for."

"But

"But, supposing I could be useful," said Agatha, "should I therefore be happy?"

"In your present circumstances, I reply, infallibly; in *most* cases, a consciousness of doing good gives a positive sense of happiness; in yours, it would be sufficient to chase from your bosom all the corroding cares that now devour you."

"You would almost persuade me," said Agatha, "that if I am not happy it is my own fault; and that I have left nothing behind me to regret. Yet I am sure, when I first heard that I was to quit New-York for Kentucky, I was perfectly miserable; and all my acquaintance told me that I should be so for ever."

"Had you told me of any dear friend," said Mary, "from whom your removal had severed you; had you left a favoured lover at New-York, although I should not indeed have said with all your acquaintance, that you would be miserable for ever, yet I should have allowed that you had a real and deep

cause for grief. My softest sympathy, and my best attentions, would have been exerted to have soothed a sorrow which time only could have cured : but now, my dear Agatha, what are those habits to which you are so attached, that the breaking of them must break your heart ? Wherever there are young people, and a fiddle, there may be balls.—Wherever there are human creatures, there may be society : and to you, who are formed to adorn every society, what does it signify, since there is no one in particular whom you lament, whether that society is in New-York or Kentucky ?”

“ But sure there is a difference in society,” said Agatha.—“ And, after what I have been accustomed to, how can I reconcile myself to the savages with whom I am henceforth to live ?”

“ You are to live with your parents, and with your sisters ; are they savages ? You are to associate with William and myself.—You will not tell me that you think us savages ; and I am sure I have more reasons than

than one for believing you do not think Mr. Eddows a savage."

" Could I live only with you and my parents," said Agatha, " I dare say I should be very happy. I already feel a love for you I scarce ever felt for any creature before.— You are so kind, so obliging, and yet so true: but this is a vain hope.—With how many strange people must I be acquainted ! And though, to be sure, I may avoid any intimacy with them, yet then I shall live almost alone, and be stigmatized as proud and impertinent."

" And pardon me, my dear Agatha," said Mary, " if I say you would deserve the imputation. If you mean by strange people the vicious and the idle, be you virtuous and industrious, and you will not find it difficult to avoid all communication with them, and yet suffer nothing from solitude ; but I have reason to believe that there are fewer people of this description in Kentucky than in New-York ; and perhaps to the idle *alone* you would have no objection : but if you mean

by strange people, those who make their duty their employment ; who are occupied through the day in something necessary or useful, I will readily allow these are the people with whom you must live, or live alone ; for of such will the family of Colonel Humberston be composed ; no other do I hope to have in my house ; and, from amongst females of such a description must Mr. Eddows chuse one to place at the head of his household, and to direct his domestic affairs."

"Mr. Eddows, then," said Agatha, blushing, "intends to marry?"

"Certainly he does," returned Mary ;— "and I should be very sorry to see him burthened with a wife, who thought idleness an honourable distinction."

"I am sure I am not accustomed to be idle," replied Agatha.—"Nobody had half so much to do as I had at New-York."

"But the kind of employment is the question," said Mary.—"We may be very busy, and very useles. I think I have read of an Emperor who assiduously spent his time

in catching flies. Yet, how easy is it to discharge our duty to society at large, if every body would do their part.

"I have been told, that it has been calculated by one who well understood the subject, that if each individual were to be employed four hours every day in something useful, that labour would produce all the necessaries and comforts of life for the whole society ;— and the rest of the twenty-four hours might be past in study, pleasure, or rest. But, as by an undue accumulation of riches, some riot, while others starve : so, by an unequal distribution of labour, some sink under their burthens ; while others consume by idleness."

"My dear Mary," said Agatha, "how much have I mistaken you.—You talk like a little philosopher.—Where, at your years, did you learn so much wisdom?"

"Oh ! you rally me with my wisdom," returned Mary ; "but what common sense I have I learnt from a dear friend who is no

more ; and I improved upon his lessons in the school of affliction."

" I trust I shall improve too, then," said Agatha ; " for I am in the school of affliction."

" Nay, my dear Agatha," said Mary ; " I can hardly allow that.—But see Mr. Eddows and William come to meet us :—the night begins to close ; let us betake ourselves to our waggons."

" With all my heart," said Agatha ;— " and let me repay all your patience with me, through a conversation so ill suited to your taste, by assuring you, that if what you have said does not procure me better sleep than any I have had for many weeks past, it will at least afford me much more pleasant matter for my waking reflections."

Mr. Eddows and William now came up ; and reproaching their friends for having so long separated themselves from their party, they assisted them to mount the waggons ;—where, after a cheerful supper, each betook themselves to their respective mattresses.

## CHAP. IX.

FROM this day there was a visible alteration in the manners of Agatha. She communicated more with her companions ; she busied herself more in the projects that were going forward, and took a greater interest in the scenes through which they passed. But, as it often happens with those, who, having been long wrong, find it difficult to gain credit to their intention of being right at last, Agatha found not that her advances met with such a return as she thought she had a

right to expect ; and, not immediately reaping the advantage she had hoped from a change of conduct, she sometimes relapsed into her former fullness and disobligingness. She complained to Mary of her disappointment ; and Mary, exhorting her to proceed in the right path into which she had once entered, easily led her to see that there was something unreasonable in her expectation, that she, who had so often repulsed the kindest attentions of her friends, should be received with open arms the first moment that she shewed the slightest wish for such a favour. These hints caused Agatha to look into herself.—For a time, this inspection humbled and depressed her ; but presently it taught her to regulate her vanity, and to place it on a right basis.

“ Henceforward,” would she say to Mary, “ I will endeavour to pride myself only on what is really praise worthy ; and, seeking first my own approbation, wait patiently that of others.”

“ Oh !

"Oh! my little Agatha," said Mary;—  
"I shall have you a philosopher too, I find."

William had, from the first, treated Agatha with that true politeness which springs from a kind heart and good understanding; and he now went hand in hand with Mary in the encouragement she gave to Agatha's new-sprung excellence; and from the indulgence that she was always sure to meet with from him, he was become almost as great a favourite with her as was Mary herself.

"Ah! who would have believed it," said she, "that in a rugged travel over these inhospitable mountains, I should have found two persons who are dearer to my fancy and my heart than any I ever before knew."

"*Two only,*" said Mary, archly.

"*Two only,*" replied Agatha, gravely, and blushing.

Mrs. Humberston was the first to perceive what she hoped might be a radical change in the opinions and manners of Agatha: but Colonel Humberston was not yet able so far to forget the conduct that she had at first held, as to give credit to the present appearances of amendment; and Mr. Eddows had conceived so unfavourable an opinion, both of her character and understanding, that he now scarcely ever thought about her. Mary politically suffered him to continue in his error, being aware with how much more effect the merit of Agatha would appear, when it struck him as a prodigy, as well as an excellence.

One day Mary and she, having tired themselves with walking, sat down on a stone in the road, and Mary took out her pencil to make a sketch of some of the picturesque objects with which they were surrounded.

“ Have I not heard you say you have learnt to draw ? ” said she to Agatha.

“ Yes,”

"Yes," replied Agatha : "but I was idle, and made little of it."

"Have you any idea of the method of drawing from nature?" asked Mary.

"I once attempted a view or two near New-York, and I was told I succeeded extremely well; but I dare say I was not told true.—Those were days of flattery; these are days of truth."

"I am apt to believe you *were* told true," said Mary ; "as I am, that you would excel in most things you undertake. Take my pencil, and try what you can do with that wonderful group of hills which lie off to the right hand."

Agatha did as she was desired; and Mary soon saw how much her friend went beyond her in the art of drawing.

"My dear Agatha, this is charming," said she ; "I must entreat that you will become my mistress.—I should be very vain, if I could draw as you do."

" See," cried she, eagerly, to William and Mr. Eddows, who just then joined them; " see what Miss Humberston has done."

" I am glad," said Mr. Eddows, coldly, " that Miss Humberston can do *any* thing."

" And I, for my part," said William, hastily, " believe she can do every thing."

The blush of resentment and shame, which had dyed the cheek of Agatha, on the remark made by Mr. Eddows, now took a deeper tinge from the glow of grateful modesty, which she felt on this kind encouragement from William.

" By becoming the pupil of Mrs. Challoner," said she, with her eyes fixed on the ground, " I may in time half deserve your kind opinion."

" That sentiment," said Mr. Eddows, looking on her with a delight he had never felt before, " is worth all the talents in the world. Pray forgive my churlishness. I am already

already much more of my friend William's opinion, than of that which I so rudely expressed."

"If Agatha will forgive you," said Mary, "it is more than I will do, except in consideration that your want of observation has brought its own punishment with it. Those who cannot see Miss Humberston's merit, do not deserve to benefit by it."

"For Heaven's sake," said Agatha, "have done: You have been endeavouring, for this fortnight past, to cure me of vanity;—and now you are taking pains to make me more vain than ever."

"I have more reason to complain than you have," said Mr. Eddows.—"Mrs. Chaloner's lessons are in direct opposition to my repose: yet, so delightful is the poison she prepares for me, that I perceive I shall drink it in large draughts, be the consequence what it will."

Agatha blushed more than ever; but she replied, "May I not then hope you will assist me in disappointing the malice of these enemies

enemies of ours. Will *you* be my monitor ? I will promise docility and obedience."

" If you will add kindness," said Mr. Eddows, " how readily and gratefully shall I undertake the task."

" Ah ! I cannot engage so deeply," said Agatha ; " and kindness rather belongs to the master than the scholar."

Mr. Eddows replied, and Agatha rejoined, until, after about half an hour's walk, Mr. Eddows found himself heartily in love ; and, from this day, he had no wish more fervent, than that Agatha should become his wife.

She, on her part, improved daily in every useful and every estimable quality ; and, before the party arrived at Pittsburg, not only Mr. Eddows and Mrs. Humberston, but the Colonel himself, acknowledged the change that had been wrought in her manners and way of thinking, and gave Agatha a first place in his heart and approbation.

All

All parties united in their gratitude to Mary ; but no one felt it so strongly as Agatha herself.

"To you," cried she, "I owe it, that a journey, which I looked upon with a dread little short of horror, has become the epocha of my happiness. Never before did I know what it was to be happy ; nor without your kindness shou'd I have known it now.—The future now lies like a beautiful plain before me, which I hope to adorn and shadow over with a thousand useful works, and virtuous actions : and it is only upon myself that I depend for a completion of my schemes.—While, on the contrary, hitherto, if I looked into the time to come, all appeared like a thick wood, through which I could only see my way by the assistance of others : and if I erected lofty domes and stately palaces at the end of those vistas which the adulation of others, and my own vanity, cut through it, I still was depressed by the painful sense, that all the happiness I could look for in such scenes

scenes was dependent upon the caprice, the envy, and malice of those over whom I had no controul. Ah ! my dear Mary, how shall I repay you for having taught me, that, in the use of my understanding, and the cultivation of my heart, alone lies the secret of real and substantial happiness?"

## CHAP. X.

IT was thus that, in a reciprocation of kindness and gratitude, the time passed happily away until the arrival of the party at Pittsburg. No evil accident had occurred, no hardships had been endured. They had found

found their manner of travelling not only easy, but pleasant ; and it would have been difficult for any one of them to have recollect<sup>d</sup>ed a period of their lives where nineteen successive days had been passed so agreeably.

From Pittsburg they were to proceed by water ; and they found it easy to accommodate themselves with a passage upon very reasonable terms.

Having recommendations from some of their friends at Philadelphia to several families settled at and near Pittsburg, they spent a few days in arranging some particulars relative to their voyage, in providing themselves with a fresh store of provisions, and in viewing the adjacent country. But their thoughts and wishes were bent upon Kentucky ; and it was not long that either the hospitable frankness of their kind entertainers, or the charms of the scene with which they were surrounded, could detain them.

Every

Every thing being prepared for their voyage, they embarked upon the beautiful stream of the Ohio, formed by the gentle and limpid waters of the Mohongahalo, flowing in serene majesty between its steep and lofty banks, and the more impetuous torrent of the Allegany river.

For something more than an hundred miles below Pittsburg, they continued to be gratified by the sight of a constant succession of flourishing settlements on the east side of the river. But they viewed with concern, and not wholly without apprehension, the western banks; where the jealousy of the Indians, instigated by the avarice of the English traders, had hitherto forbidden the hand of cultivation to reap those riches which nature seemed so beautifully to hold out to the sons of industry.

The infant settlements of the great Kanhaway and Gallipolis a little, and but a little, broke the extensive wilderness that spread

spread on either hand, as they proceeded down the river. But nature, in her wildest form, has charms.—And while they considered that these were scenes through which they were only to pass, they were able to enjoy the savage beauties she displayed on every side, unallayed by the apprehension of any hardships they should themselves thereby incur.

Agatha indeed asked, with a fearful voice, if Kentucky was as rude and as little cultivated as the land she saw : but instantly recollecting herself—“ If it is,” said she, “ I shall be with those in whose company I shall prefer a wilderness to a palace without them.”

Mr. Eddows, in a low voice, asked her whether he might flatter himself he was included in the word *those*? and Agatha, smiling, replied, “ She made no distinctions when she spoke of her friends.”

After

After a navigation of nearly five hundred miles, performed in less than five days, they now approached the spot where they were first to put foot on that ground which was from henceforward to be their home. Every heart beat with hope, or sunk with fear.— Each expressed the greatest confidence that they should find all that they could wish ;— yet each looked on the other for a confirmation of what they affected not to doubt.— They landed at Limestone, and hopes and fears were no more !

\* Every thing here assumed a dignity and splendor not to be seen in any other part of the world. Here an eternal verdure reigns. Flowers, full and perfect, as if they had been cultivated by the hand of a florist, with all their captivating odours, and all their variegated charms of colour and form, decorate the stately groves. Every gale is loaded with perfume ; and the inhaled air gives a voluptuous glow of health and vigour that seems

to

\* Imlay's account of Kentucky.

to ravish the intoxicated senses ; while the mild effulgence that beams around, inspires a thrill of gratitude for that elevation of station which the all-bountiful Creator has bestowed on man.

As our emigrants ascended from the shore of the Ohio, and advanced into a country where nature is a series of wonders, and a storehouse of delight, astonishment, rapture, and gratitude, held them mute. What words can express what Mary felt, enthusiast as she was in the love of nature, when she beheld her arrayed in charms, such as she had never been able even to form an idea of to herself ? And how did her heart overflow with a delight as ineffable as it was intoxicating, when she said, “ Here, amidst peace, plenty, and friendship, I am henceforth to dwell !—Oh ! my parents, I have often called you unkind ! What is *that* which you have withheld which is comparable to *that* which you have given ?”

“ My

“ My Mary—my beloved Mary !” said William, and the tumultuous beating of his heart stopped, for a moment, all further utterance.—“ Our sufferings (added he) have been acute ; our pilgrimage has been long ; but our reward is full ; let our gratitude be unbounded !”

It was agreed, by unanimous consent, that they should quit their waggons ; and betaking themselves to one of those numerous groves which rose on every hand, that they should spend some hours in refreshment and leisure.—They felt that they were now arrived at their destined haven ; the whole country seemed their own ; and they experienced at present no desire to advance to the particular spot that was marked out for their future habitation.

These hours of indulgence and delight were carried so far into the evening, that it was resolved they should set up their lodging in the same place, and that they should , not

not resume their journey until the next morning.

Colonel Humberston's grant of land was traversed by some of the most southern branches of the Licking river, stretching south-west towards the remarkable bend in Kentucky river and the town of Lexington; to which place the outermost limits of his property approached within ten or twelve miles; while, towards the east, it receded towards the head waters of the Red river; the whole including a tract of country, which, from the variety of its soil and situations, united in itself every advantage that a settler could desire.—Wood, water, cane, fruitful plains, and luxuriant vallies, were offered to his choice; while the country, spreading out into the most beautiful undulations, or rising into gentle hills, from which flowed a thousand streams, formed a region enchanting beyond description.

It

It was to this earthly paradise that our little colony of emigrants, after an evening of enjoyment, and a night of repose, were to prosecute their journey.

As they advanced, they found the soil, if possible, increase in richness : and when they again arrived at the place destined for their second resting ground, they were even satiated with delight.

As the weather was uncommonly fine, they determined to form a sort of encampment with the waggons, in the centre of which they might erect two or three tents, wherein they might reside with comfort and convenience, until they should have erected a house.

This house, according to the fashion of the country, and for the sake of expedition, they determined should be of logs, and that it should be sufficiently large to contain the whole party ; it being equally the wish of all

all, that no separation should take place until the ensuing spring. The interval was to be spent by Mr. Eddows and William in fixing on the lands they were to purchase, in opening a certain portion of ground, and in giving some form to the spot that each should chuse for the scite of their future habitation.

Their party was sufficiently large to accomplish the erection of even a spacious log mansion with all the rapidity that their circumstances required ;—and, such was the hospitality and friendly disposition of the inhabitants of Kentucky, that they found each one within distance ran eagerly to their assistance ; each bringing something that might contribute to the comforts or conveniences of life, or offering such advice and directions as their better experience in the art of settling enabled them to give.

These are *strange* people indeed ! my dear Agatha," said Mary to her one day.—

"They are determined we shall know nothing of their country but the blessings of it."

"Oh!" cried Agatha, "I cannot bear to be reminded of my follies, now I have abjured them."

And that she had abjured them, she every day gave the most convincing proofs. She forgot her refinement and her indolence: in all works of activity, she was the foremost in the group; one of the most interested in all the arrangements; and one of the happiest in their success.

But an hour now approached towards Mary, which fills every female heart with apprehension and solicitude. And Agatha, when she thought of the danger and pain which her friend was about to encounter, relapsed into her fears and prejudices.

"What will become of you in *such a country as this?*" said she to Mary; "without attendance—

attendance—without assistance.—Ah! would to Heaven we were at Philadelphia again?"

Mary, laughing, reminded her, that it was scarcely ten years since those regions were first marked by the foot of an European woman, and that now they were supposed to contain thirty thousand persons.—"Do you think," said she, "that all the females in my circumstances made voyages to Philadelphia?"

"Affuredly not," said Agatha, and took courage.

The event justified Mary's hopes ; it was not long before she embraced, without undergoing any uncommon evil, her first born ; and William, in speechless ecstasy, clasped at once his wife and daughter to his bosom.

The naming of the infant was distinguished by a double feast. The same day that perpetuated the gratitude of Mary to her foster mother, by giving the name of Eleanor to

her new darling, beheld Agatha receive the vows of Mr. Eddows, and heard her vow obedience, and engage for all the humble and domestic duties of a wife.

CHAP. XI.  
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THE happiness of this knot of friends seemed now beyond the possibility of increase : but, when they considered that this happiness depended not upon the opinions nor caprices of others ; that it rested neither on rank nor wealth, the smiles of monarchs, nor the favours of their ministers, but that it was the genuine offspring of pure virtue, of honest

honest industry, and ardent affection—neither did they fear its diminution.—The first solicitude of every heart was betrayed by the morning inquiry, if “ all were well.”—And the alacrity with which each individual, when satisfied in this point, pursued the business of the day, declared that further they had nothing to desire.

Colonel and Mrs. Humberston were happy in the sacrifices they had made, and the rewards they had obtained. Mr. Eddows, in the conviction that he now breathed the true air of freedom, and in the possession of a wife whom he adored. Agatha, in having abjured her follies and her prejudices, and in the approbation of a husband, for whose understanding and opinions she had the highest respect. But, who can speak the happiness of William and Mary ?

All that they had escaped, and all that they enjoyed, was unceasingly in their mind: and, while they scarcely knew for which they

ought to be most grateful, there were moments in which the *whole* seemed more than they were able to bear.

Mary was no sooner well recovered from her confinement, than she accompanied William to that spot which was henceforth to be more peculiarly their own. As she wandered through its fairy scenes, with a design to fix upon the exact place where their future habitation was to be erected, she found her choice irresistibly drawn towards a valley which resembled, in her imagination, the favourite valley of Llamamón.

"Let us stray no further," said she to William :—"again I behold my beloved Llamamon, and never more will I wander from its enchanting scenes. There (cried she) stood my dear mother's cottage, and there will we raise our dwelling.—That path leads to the vicarage ; that points to Llanbeder farm.—Round that point I shall find the road to the village ; and in that thicket

the

the little rural retreat, in which I have sat so many hours with our kind Mr. Ellis."

William, who could see only with Mary's eyes, easily persuaded himself to believe the similitude; and, smiling, adopted all her opinions.

It is certain, that all the flowery regions of Kentucky did not afford a more enchanting scene.

This chosen spot was sheltered from the western winds by a rising ground; at the foot and along the sides of which rose a majestic grove of the sugar maple, the spreading branches of whose lofty trees waved over a turf of the most exquisite verdure, only broken by a profusion of flowers of the most admirable beauty. Here the finest crown imperials the eye ever saw raised their heads; the cardinal flowers, whose unequalled scarlet dazzles the sight, displayed its beauties; hyacinths, jonquils, the ranunculus, and

the tuberose, here united their colours and their odour. Here the rose and the magnolia diffused their fragrance : and such was the variety and beauty of the flowering shrubs, that the whole wilderness appeared in blossom.

Mary passionately loved flowers, and was never weary of gazing on these her favourites, which she had never before seen so beautiful or so resplendent. Nor was it the eye alone that was feasted.

The earth yielded, with equal abundance, all that can gratify the taste, or satisfy the appetite. The vines, running to the tops of the trees, offered to the hand clusters of the most delicious grapes. Apples, pears, peaches, apricots, and nectarines, of a most exquisite flavour, presented themselves in their respective seasons, on every hand. The ground was covered with bushes of raspberries, currants, and gooseberries ; at the foot of which grew a profusion of strawberries and melons,

melons, only to be equalled by those of Persia. All were the spontaneous gift of nature, whose lap poured forth in abundance more than the mind could think, or the heart desire.

Of every culinary plant, root, or herb, there was equal profusion; while the stately forest trees rose on every side, affording timber for every use; and, while the grain yielded an hundred fold, and hemp, flax, and cotton, only asked the hand of industry to be converted into the most comfortable and elegant clothing.

"Poverty in this country," cried Mary, "is impossible."

And already she anticipated the various employments, that, from henceforth, she should be engaged in.

A garden plot and orchard were soon marked out. The work of clearing the

ground was set about immediately ; and this, where the underwood is not profuse, is a work of easy dispatch, and little difficulty.

Mary and William soon saw their future residence assume a form that perfectly answered their wishes ; and, in their opinion, this new Llamamon soon rivalled the old.

Mr. Eddows and Agatha had chosen a situation for their residence not more than half a mile distant from that of William and Mary, on the side of a rising ground ; in the front of which lay a beautiful expanse of lawn, shaded with a variety of large trees and flowering shrubs. The communication between the two was through stately groves of large walnuts, the sugar maple, and odorous magnolia : at the foot of which grew a variety of the flowering shrubs ; amidst which the myrtle, in all its beauty and fragrance, claimed a conspicuous place.

While

While the habitations of these two friends were thus united by a path-way literally strewed with flowers and perfumes, the habitation of Colonel and Mrs. Humberston, who were considered as the parents of the colony, was not far removed.

It formed one point of a triangle, of which the valley of Llamamon, and Magnolia grove (for so Agatha had named her mansion), made the other two.

Between, around, and on every side of these three principal habitations, were placed the cottages in which their labourers resided. Agnes and Robert had a more distinguished residence than the rest ; and, to their good sense and management, it was owing that plenty and perfect cordiality reigned amongst them all, even from the first months of the settlement being formed.

It is not necessary to dwell on the progressive labours and occupations that filled

up the remaining part of the autumn, little, if at all, interrupted by the short winter of this happy climate ; nor on those which the early spring made necessary. Employment was found for every hour, and for every individual ; but it was employment that was pursued with pleasure, and repaid by plenty.

"How comes it," said Agatha, "that the exertions I made at New-York, even when I was most pleased, were always succeeded by lassitude and weariness ? While here it is not fatigue ; it is pleasure that is the consequence of exertion ?"

"Because," replied Mary, "at New-York you were stimulated to action by vanity, or a thirst for amusement. Here your activity springs from a sense of duty : dissatisfaction succeeded the one ; self-gratulation the other."

Agatha had little leisure to consider of what kind of persons the society she was fallen amongst was formed : yet she found, equally
to

to her surprise and satisfaction, that nothing was wanting, even in this particular, to her happiness. Many officers, in circumstances similar to those of Colonel Humberston, had come out from the Maritime states with their families ; and Agatha had an opportunity of renewing several tyes of friendship, that had been broken by the war at New-York. Thus, while from the order and peace that was established in every part of the state, people pursued their business in as much quiet and safety as they would have done in Europe, a taste for all the delights of social intercourse began to be cultivated and understood. Decorum, and even elegance, prevailed in society ; and the improvements that daily took place in living and manners, awakened in all a desire to instruct the youth in the useful studies and ornamental arts. Amusement, yet only as the hand-maid, or the reward of industry, began to be cultivated. It arose wholly from the interchangement of civilities, and a reciprocal desire of pleasing. Hence no one
 felt

felt a want of society ; and every one, desirous of giving pleasure, experienced the most lively sense of it in their own bosoms.

In such a community our emigrants could not fail of holding a conspicuous place. The superior skill of William in agricultural science, gave him a weight and consideration in all company, that was well supported by the goodness of his understanding and the sweetness of his manners. Mary's beauty attracted every eye ; but, when it was seen that from the distaff and the dairy, to the pencil and the dance, she knew how to instruct, to superintend, and to charm, she was looked upon as a kind of prodigy. Agatha, who delighted to tread in her steps, gained little less admiration ; and these two friends, now each placed at the head of her family, which she regulated with emulous care and skill, were at once the delight of their husbands, the ornament of society, and the happiest of human beings.

CHAP. XII.

IN a situation so favourable to every virtue and every bliss, the progress of years passed unheeded, and time flew unmarked, except by epochas of happiness and virtue.

Mary had been now nine years in America, without having had reason for one single moment to repent having quitted England. Her situation, however, was at this period very different to what it had been on her first arrival in Kentucky.

Not

Not to dwell on the improvement that had taken place in the country itself; on the roads that had been made; the communications between the rivers that had been opened; of the plenty, even to profusion, of its productions, not only in the necessaries, but the elegancies of life;—not to dwell on these particulars, which contributed little, perhaps, to Mary's felicity, the domain of the valley of Llamamon had undergone a progressive improvement; which, if it had not added to its natural beauties, because to these no addition *could* be made, had enriched it with so many of the conveniences and comforts of life, as left not a wish ungratified in the breast of its possessors;—William's skill and prudence had made him the richest farmer in the settlement; and every passing day added to his wealth. This wealth, however, consisted not in gold and silver, but, like that of the Patriarchs of old, in flocks and herds, in corn and oil.—His estate was well cultivated, and well peopled; his house spacious and well furnished; and, instead

instead of the whole of his property being confined to the narrow limits of a travelling waggon, it spread over many hundred acres of the most productive land in the fruitful settlement of Kentucky. Nor were his domestic comforts less increased than his riches. Mary had made him the father of six sprightly and blooming children, who already began to share in the labours of their parents, and to be considered as the most valuable part of their wealth. No anxious thought for their future subsistence ever crossed the breast of either parent. In giving them just principles, and the habits of industry, in cultivating and increasing their understandings, they knew that they gave them all that was necessary to their future happiness or their future support. In a country where, in the strictest sense of the expression, the value of land may be said to depend upon the number of its cultivators, it rests with each individual to be at once independent and affluent. Strangers, therefore, to those racking solicitudes that tear the bosom of the tender

European

European parent, who, as he sees the playful infant shoot up into man, sighs over the difficulties and dangers that may too probably wreck his virtues, and will too surely impede his course in his most honest pursuit after a subsistence, William and Mary saw their family increase with equal gratitude and delight.

William could already tell the ground his boys should till, and Mary point out the dairy that her girls should superintend ; and, in this destination for their children, they consulted equally their taste and their reason.

But, although thus crowned with American blessings, and wedded to American habits, neither William nor Mary had forgotten that they were born in Europe.

William had offered the first fruits of his prosperity to his father; and had implored him to further his success by his good wishes.

As

As William asked nothing further, and as the person who conveyed his request to Humphrey assured him that his son neither wanted nor desired more, Humphrey Chal-loner was not such a churl as to refuse his present. An intercourse of kind words had, in consequence, been established between them; which, on William's part, was aided by such presents that his farm enabled him to make, of such productions as, being unknown in Europe, might have a value from their variety.

Mary had never ceased to hold a regular correspondence with her ever-beloved Anna. To her she had detailed her progressive prosperity, and her permanent happiness; and from her she had learnt not only all that related to Anna herself, who was early and happily married, but all that was publicly known of the rage and disappointment that had been felt by Sir James and Lady Caroline on her own escape, and the

the consequent miscarriage of their ambitious schemes.

They had endeavoured, for some time, to conceal her flight from the world ; but, when it became certain that she was with her lover, and that she had embarked with him for America, losing every hope of reclaiming her, they dropt all concealment ; and, in endeavouring to fix a stigma upon Mary, they published their own disgrace.

Mary could not discover, by any thing that Anna ever related, that they repented of the treatment she had received from them, or that reflection had awakened remorse or affection in their bosoms.—And Mary was lost in wonder, when she endeavoured to discover what could be the cause of such hard hearts.

The years passed, and Mary had almost begun to cease to look for the names of her parents in the articles of intelligence with which

which Anna's letters were filled. She had began to believe, that no future period would renew their intercourse, and that no evidence of her prosperity or her happiness could awaken in the breasts of these unnatural parents, other emotions than those of disapprobation and disappointment.

But Mary had not yet sufficiently proved the excellence of her character.—Another trial awaited her, which was to crown all her labours, and place her claim to every female virtue beyond the possibility of dispute.

The ninth year of her residence in America was now nearly closed, when she received the following letter from Anna.—

“ Little as you have reason, my dear friend, to be interested in the fate of Sir James and Lady Caroline Seabright, and fruitless as your compassion must prove, at
the

“ the distance where you are now placed,
“ yet I cannot help informing you of events
“ which make, at present, the topic of all
“ conversation here, and which I know that
“ the goodness of your heart will render
“ far from indifferent to you. Shall I begin
“ with telling you, that you have no longer
“ a father? Alas! could Sir James ever be
“ called your father? Poor unhappy man!
“ How assuredly would he have rejoiced in
“ his last hours, to have forgotten the rela-
“ tionship in which he stood towards you,
“ or to have been able to have obtained
“ your forgiveness, for the unworthy treat-
“ ment you received from his hands.—But
“ it seems as if he, who had no pity to-
“ wards you, was to remain unconsoled in
“ circumstances that, most of all others,
“ called for the soothing balm of compassion
“ and sympathy.—Let it not shock your
“ feelings, my dear Mary, too much to be
“ told, that this unkind parent, after dis-
“ sipating the whole of his property, and
“ more than his property; unable to endure

“ a poverty so disgracefully incurred ; and
“ stung with the reproaches of his con-
“ science, from a too late sense of his cruelty
“ to you, found means to shorten an ex-
“ istence, which had never been a blessing
“ to any one, and had long become a bur-
“ then to himself. A servant of the name
“ of Wroughton is supposed greatly to have
“ contributed to so complete a ruin. You
“ ask eagerly what effect so sad a catastrophe
“ has had upon Lady Caroline ? Shall we
“ not say that it was fortunate, in circum-
“ stances so peculiarly terrible, that Lady
“ Caroline could feel only for herself ? Had
“ she had a more acute sensation mixed with
“ her self-lamentation, she must have sunk
“ under her distress. As it is, reduced to
“ the most extreme penury, from which she
“ is relieved only by the very limited and
“ strictly appropriated bounty of some of
“ her relations, she passes her time in miser-
“ able lodgings, deserted by almost all of her
“ old associates, the victim of dejection and
“ disease. No distance—no time can, I am
“ sure,

“ sure, have obliterated the excellence of
“ Mrs. Elliot from your memory. Her
“ kindness, which even ingratitude cannot
“ turn aside from its benevolent course, is
“ still exerted to lighten the heavy burthen
“ of the forlorn Lady Caroline. She sees
“ her more frequently than any one be-
“ sides ; and, not being able to afford her
“ any other consolation, listens patiently to
“ her complaints. She talks to her chiefly
“ of *you*, and of the injustice and injury she
“ has done you : and, having learnt, thro' the
“ knowledge that Mrs. Elliot has derived
“ from me, of your prosperity and happi-
“ nes, counts, amongst her misfortunes,
“ that she should have a child in circum-
“ stances so flourishing, while she is so
“ miserable. She acknowledges, that she
“ has no demands upon you, even for your
“ pardon ; yet talks of the duties of a child,
“ while she seems to forget how ill she has
“ fulfilled those of a mother.

“ My dear friend, do not lay this sad
“ history too much to heart, nor suffer it to
“ interrupt a happiness so dearly purchased,

" and so well deserved.—If you think any
" soothing expression, or fully-expressed re-
" mission of all Lady Caroline's transgres-
" sions towards you, can mitigate her pre-
" sent unhappiness (and, in truth, she is
" very miserable), I know I need not urge
" you to give her this consolation.—For
" however you sometimes surprised me by
" your resolute adherence to what you
" thought right, in spite of all common
" opinions, yet, to the demands of tender-
" ness and compassion, I have ever found
" you respondent. Lady Caroline is yet
" too high spirited to *ask* your forgiveness:
" yet often tells Mrs. Elliot that she can-
" not die in peace without it:—but is it
" not amongst those inalienable duties of a
" child to a parent, that once you laid down
" to me, not to suffer a mother to stoop to
" such necessity?

" Adieu, my dear friend.—If the madness
" and vices of Europe proceed much fur-
" ther, I too will take shelter in an
VOL. IV. I " American

" American wilderness, and try to be as excellent and happy as yourself."

Mary had just lain in of her sixth child when she received the foregoing letter. She was in the bosom of her family, beloved and beloved, with scarcely a thought that strayed beyond this beloved circle, and unused to separate herself, even for the shortest period, from the duties it exacted. Ever again to cross the mountains, much less the Atlantic, was a thought that had never occurred; and an event that, an hour before she read this letter, she would confidently have asserted could never have taken place. But she had no sooner perused it than she exclaimed, the colour at the same moment forsaking her cheek, and her lips trembling—" I must leave you, my beloved friends; I must go to England.—My mother is in distress; in poverty.—I must fly to her assistance."

William

William turned pale.—“Dearest Mary,” cried he, with a faltering voice, “what is that I hear? Do you think we can part?”

“Read that,” said she, giving him the letter; “and tell me if it be possible to do otherwise.—*You* will not counsel me to insult a mother in such circumstances as these with a verbal forgiveness;—with soothing words, ineffectual, and therefore cruel.”

William read the letter.—He returned it mournfully into Mary’s hands.

“Alas!” cried he, “what can I say? I cannot indeed counsel you to fly *any* duty; yet that you should go to England; that you should expose yourself to the hazards of such a journey, and the danger of the sea!”

“Oh! I must not think of these,” said Mary.—“I thought not of them when I escaped from England to avoid misfortune; shall I think of them when I return thither to perform a duty? But *you* were then with me.—I had then no children.—That I must

leave you and them, makes the difficulty and the pain :—yet (cried she, fondly embracing him) I intreat you to encourage me so to do. Hitherto I have not been sufficiently happy to have it in my power to shew the sense of that duty which a child owes to the authors of her being.—I ought to be thankful to Heaven, who thus affords me an opportunity of proving to *myself*, that the opposition and disobedience hitherto laid to my charge was not the opposition of stubbornness, or the disobedience of self-will, but such as were exacted by the sacred and inviolable dictates of truth, honour, and integrity.”

William clasped her to his heart.

“ Dearest and most excellent of creatures!” said he, “ you shall go to England.—We will go together ;—and——”

“ Oh ! William,” cried she, interrupting him ;—“ what is that you say ? Look on that beloved group, and tell me, shall any self-

self-indulgence expose them to the misfortunes which hang for ever over the heads of children deprived of their parents? No, my dear William, remain where you are.—

While these dear babies are sheltered by your care, and formed by your precepts, I can fear no other evil from my absence but the pain of separation; to be repaid, I hope, a hundred fold, by the joys of a reunion:—but, were we both to leave them, not a single moment would be untormented by the dread of a thousand misfortunes, for which I should hold myself accountable. If you continue with these dear pledges of our most constant and ardent love, they will never lose sight of their mother, even though mountains rise, and seas roll between us.—You will keep me perpetually in their remembrance:—but if we both abandon them, who shall preserve the idea in their minds that they have parents? And when we rejoin them, instead of those loving and familiar little beings, who are never so blest as when they hang upon our garments, or are

incircled in our arms, we shall find strangers who must be bribed to approach us; and who, as they stand aloof, will examine our faces with their eye, to see whether we may be safely trusted or not."

William sighed deeply, and remained for some moments silent.

"My dear William," returned Mary, "hitherto we have been so happy, that we had forgotten that any thing could arise to give us pain. But what right have we to be exempted from the common lot of humanity? And alas! how frequently have we said, and how constantly do we inculcate, that, in the performance of the most difficult duty, there is a positive pleasure? Shall we now give the lie by our actions, to what we have been endeavouring to establish by our words?"

"You may philosophize and reason as you will, my dear love," said William;— "but to part with you from my sight, will

be

be a misfortune of the heaviest kind, and the greatest sacrifice I *can* make to duty."

"But it *is* a sacrifice to duty," said Mary, the tears flowing in streams from her eyes; "and shall not that conviction be a compensation to us both?"

As she uttered these words, Mr. Eddows and Agatha, who were accustomed to enter the house of their friends as familiarly as they did their own, appeared.

Starting at an appearance so unusual as that of distress, or grief on the countenance of those happy people, Agatha hastily inquired into the cause, and was soon made acquainted with every circumstance.

"And will you, my Mary," said Agatha; "will you leave your William—your children; will you leave us *all* for a mother who has used you as Lady Caroline has done?—and whom you do not even know will be glad to see you, when you have traversed

mountains, and crostèd seas to come to her?"

"I have always thought," replied Mary, "that support, succour, and tendernes, are the inalienable duties of a child to a parent. My mother is sick, poor, abandoned, miserable.—Could I transmit to her a sum of money sufficient to restore her to affluence, I should not hesitate what to do: but you know our riches do not consist in gold and silver.—To benefit by them we must reside here.—It is here alone that I can pay my mother the duties that I owe her. Were I to offer her to come to me, she would think I mocked her; so impossible would it appear to her weakened mind, that she should undertake such a journey. But when she sees I have done so; when she beholds me ready to lighten all its difficulties; and to share its dangers, both the one and the other will lose their magnitude. The distance appears formidable; but when I consider, that since the making of the new road over the mountains, seven or eight days will take me,

me, with ease and safety, to Alenondnia ;— and that, from thence, a happy voyage of seven or eight weeks will waft me to England, I cannot calculate my absence for longer than five months.—And shall I set the unhappiness of such a separation in balance against the most sacred of duties ?”

William regarded her as she spoke with a kind of melancholy admiration ; yet sighed bitterly, and uttered not a word.

“ How difficulties,” said Mr. Eddows, “ disappear before reason, and a sense of rectitude ! You do not, however, propose to go alone ?”

“ Oh ! no,” returned Mary ; “ certainly not.—It was but yesterday, you know, that Mr. and Mrs. Tomasine determined that their journey to England should take place in less than a fortnight ; and I am sure they will joyfully allow me to accompany them.”

“ If I were to ask to be your companion,” said Mr. Eddows, would you refuse me ?”

William's eye brightened at the proposal, and Mary's cheek flushed with pleasure ;—but glancing a look at Agatha—"Why," said she, "should I involve my friend in the pains of absence ? Mr. Eddows has no parent that calls for his presence."

"And why, my dear Mary," said Agatha, "are you to be the only heroine ? Do you think I cannot support a laudable separation as well as yourself ? Am I one of those wives who comprise all the duties and pleasures of life, in never suffering my husband to part from my side ? Let Mr. Eddows go with you, and half the weight I now feel at my heart will be removed.—Mr Challoner will take care of Mr. Eddows's farm in his absence, and I will look after your household concerns :—thus no one will suffer in what is of most importance ; and when we meet again, we shall meet only to rejoice."

William caught Agatha's hand, and pressed it to his lips,

"How

"How true it is," said he, "that a friend is the cordial of life! I would myself accompany Mary, but—"

"She objects to it," interrupted Mr. Eddows; "and very properly. Neither should you and Mary, or Agatha and myself, be absent at the same time; and this for a thousand reasons:—but, in leaving Agatha to your care, and taking Mary under mine, I think we shall both divest this necessary separation of all the uneasiness of which we can divest it.—Enough will remain to prove the self-denial of all parties."

"You think it then *necessary*?" asked William.

"Perhaps," returned Mr. Eddows, "necessary is too strong a word:—but I think it highly becoming the character of Mrs. Chaloner as eagerly to fly *to* the succour of her mother in distress, as it was to fly *from* her unworthy tyranny, when she was in power and affluence."

"But the distance—the danger," urged William.

well

16

"Were

"Were you obliged to make a journey to England," said Mr. Eddows, "would you not consider both as trifling? Did any of us think of danger when we quitted Ireland for these happy shores? And are we not, in fact, convinced that there is nothing really formidable in such a journey, and in such a voyage?"

"You will not allow, then," said William, "that I have any but selfish objections to this expedition?"

"You have *no* objections whatever," said Mr. Eddows, "to which you would yield. Were the matter left to your decision, Mary would embark for England."

"It *is* left to William's decision," said Mary:—"I go or stay, as he decrees."

"Then go, my dearly beloved," said William! "though my heart bleeds at every vein while I say so.—*Go*; but never will I impede the course of your virtue;—never will I tarnish your glory!"

Mary

Mary wept :—but the conviction was strong in her bosom that she was doing right ; and so feelingly and persuasively did she communicate this conviction to William, that, amidst all the agonies of approaching separation, he took pride to himself in the possession of a woman, who, unswayed by any indulgence of indolence or weakness of heart, was thus enabled to obey the dictates of reason and of duty.

CHAP. XIII.

IN a month after the above conversation, Mary set sail for Europe, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Tomasine, and her kind friend, Mr. Eddows. Mary had preserved her fortitude, even beyond the last moment of separation ; resolute to leave upon William's mind the impression that she had no fear of what she had undertaken, and to convince him, by the courage with which she bade him adieu, that she was persuaded that their absence would not be protracted beyond the period they had fixed : but, when William

was to be seen no more, and the ship was under sail, Mary sought that relief which the free indulgence of grief can alone give to an overcharged mind.

She retired to her cabin ; she wept bitterly.—“ What have I done ? ” said she, a thousand times.—“ What shall preserve me from self-reproach, should any sinister accident occur to those whom I hold so dear, when I have thus withdrawn from them my care ? Oh ! duty, how strong is thy influence over a well regulated mind ! At thy sacred voice I have suspended all that gives me happiness ; and let me not doubt, but that, in the consciousness which attends the performance of a difficult virtue, I shall find my reward.”

This thought soothed her ; and the kind attentions of Mr. Eddows, in circumstances so similar to her own, restored her to a sort of melancholy tranquillity.

In talking of the dear friends that they had left, and in anticipating the joys of meeting them again, the time insensibly, and not unpleasantly wore away, and they found themselves, after a prosperous voyage of seven weeks, safely landed in England..

The ship was bound to London; and Mary lost no more time, after she had quitted it, than was necessary to equip herself properly to appear before Mrs. Elliot, who, she recollects, was always a strenuous advocate for a due attention to dress, before she repaired to her house..

As she had given Anna immediate notice of her intention of coming to England, she thought it not impossible but that Mrs. Elliot might be prepared for her arrival;—but whether she were or not, she relied undoubtingly on the knowledge she had of her character for the kindness of her reception.

As

As the hackney coach in which she was approached Mrs. Elliot's door, a gay and splendid equipage made way for it ; and, as she descended from the carriage, a gentleman issued from the house, whom she immediately knew to be her former lover and persecutor, Lord St. Albans. She also caught his eye ; and, as he looked earnestly at her, she involuntarily curtseyed.

"No," said he, "I cannot be mistaken : there is no second Miss Seabright : it is herself that I see, however astonishing the apparition."

"It is she who was Miss Seabright," replied Mary with a smile ; but she is now Mrs. Challoner."

"Ah ! Madam," cried Lord St. Albans, coming up to her, "this is no place to offer you all the apologies that I owe you. May I not accompany you whither I may properly humble myself before you, in hopes that you will not withhold your pardon ?"

"Not

"Not for that purpose, my Lord," replied Mary.—"I remember no acts of disobligation received from you: or if any traces of such remain upon my memory, yet, when I consider the consequences, I think you more entitled to my gratitude than resentment."

"I have heard of you often," returned he, with wonder and admiration; "but I had no hope that I should ever see you again in England. If my request is not troublesome, suffer me, I beg of you, to accompany you to Mrs. Elliot, to whom, I suppose, you are going, that I may inform myself further concerning you, and hear a history confirmed, that I confess I have often treated as fabulous, or at best as romantic."

"Ah!" replied Mary, "many things are plain matters of fact in America, that are treated in Europe as chimerical and absurd: but, if your lordship does not think it too much trouble to listen, I shall be happy to give you all the information in my power on the subject."

Lord

Lord St. Albans then took her hand, and saying a thousand obliging things as they mounted the stairs together, he led her into Mrs. Elliot's drawing-room, which he had quitted but a few moments before.

Mrs. Elliot, equally astonished with his return, and the lady he brought with him, recollect ed not, for an instant, the features of Mary : but Mary advancing towards her, and beginning to speak, she interrupted her.

" It is Mary Seabright—is it not ? that I see. Oh ! how glad I am to see you in England !" added she, embracing her : " and how right and how good it was of you to come there ! "

Lord St. Albans stood gazing on Mary in silence.—Never had he thought her more interesting ; yet was there a dignity in her manner that inspired him with a respect that he had never felt before.

" Ah !

" Ah ! Mrs. Elliot," cried he, " how proud ought you to be of your relation.—Is there a woman in England that can vie with her ?

What noble beauties on her forehead play ;
What mingled grace her lovely cheeks display :
What gentle graces lighten in her eyes ;
What charms to youth her matron mind supplies !
Her manners, sweetly tun'd, bespeak the skill,
With which presiding wisdom guides her will."

The two ladies laughed : and Mary assured him, she had heard nothing so fine since she left England. " Spare me a little," added she, " till I am a little accustomed to your manners. Consider the state of simplicity and rusticity in which I have been so long living, and do not pour out upon me at once all your refinements."

Mrs. Elliot, then making her guests sit down, listened eagerly to the summary account that she made Mary give of her manner of life, and

and the circumstances of her voyage ; and Lord St. Albans, who felt his curiosity raised more and more at every word, during a detail that exhibited manners and habits so different to those to which she was accustomed, could not prevail with himself to depart, while there appeared any thing to be told.

But at length, being conscious that Mrs. Elliot and Mary must wish to be alone, he forced himself away, having first obtained a promise from Mrs. Elliot to admit him as a visiter at all hours, as long as her lovely guest remained under her roof.

When the two ladies were left alone, Mrs. Elliot informed Mary of the situation of Lady Caroline.

" Nothing can be more deplorable," said she :—" her vanity and her extravagance, joined with her arrogance in her prosperity, have not left her one friend in her adversity. Those relations, who contribute a very scanty pittance

pittance towards her support, sensible, that were this little left to her disposal, it would be squandered away in folly, scarcely allow her the smallest portion of it to spend at her will. This is a perpetual source of irritation and complaint : her misfortunes have made her miserable, but they have not cured her of one foible ; and I fear you will find her the same unreasonable and selfish being you left her ; yet she will be delighted to see you. In her softer moments, she deplores, with tears, her neglect and ill usage to you : remembers that you once said, the time might come when your forgiveness could only speak peace to her distracted mind, and that it would then be seen whether you were the worthless and disobedient child you were represented to be ; that time, she says, is come : but, adverting to the distance that separated you, she asks whether it is possible you should traverse continents, and cross oceans, to pour balm into the wounds of a parent, who, in your most helpless years, willingly placed similar barriers between you and

and her, and left you to the ravens' care? She declares, that your image haunts her night and day. If I were to die unforgiven by her! said she to me yesterday, and all the horrors of superstition and guilt seemed to shake her decayed frame.

“ Alas !” said Mary.

“ She has been told,” resumed Mrs. Elliot, “ that you are coming to offer her all the support and consolation in your power; and her wild imagination has affixed to these words the most unwarranted meaning.— Already, in idea, she revels in profusion, and triumphs over those she calls her enemies.— In vain have I endeavoured to persuade her of the falsity of her notions. She has heard of your prosperity and your wealth; and having no idea of either unconnected with stores of gold, it is not possible to convince her but that you must have mines at your command. America is a terra incognita to her: she dreams of gold and diamonds, and will conceive that you come loaded with these

these precious possessions, to pour them at her feet."

Mary sighed.

" How little satisfaction am I likely to reap," said she, " from a journey that has cost me such sacrifices to undertake ; yet I repent it not.—Had I suffered my mother to die, or live miserable in England, while I was enjoying every blessing in America, without every effort possible, on my part, to mitigate her pain, and relieve her penury, I should have been so far from consulting my own happiness, that I am confident I should have been miserable."

" You speak now a language unknown to Lady Caroline," said Mrs. Elliot, " who knows not what feeling is beyond herself ;—but, how much happier are you, who have so much more extended sensations.—Proceed as you have begun.—If you cannot make Lady Caroline reasonable or happy, I hope we shall be able to return you safe to your

William

William and your children, with the added felicity in your own breast, that she is not miserable from your fault."

Mary asked Mrs. Elliot whether she thought Lady Caroline would be willing to accompany her to America ?

" Certainly not *willingly*," replied Mrs. Elliot :—" but if she finds you can do nothing for her in England, she will be obliged to comply with any proposal you may think fit to make ; her as I am convinced, that not one amongst those who subscribe to her subsistence will continue to do so, if they find that you will, in any way, take her off their hands."

" It is most certain," said Mary, " that I can do nothing for her in England. In America I can maintain her, not only in comfort, but in affluence ; but how she will ever live where the sounds of nobility never greet her ears, and where the only distinctions are those of good sense and good morals, is the question.

Mary now hastened to apprise Lady Caroline of her arrival, and entreated her permission to wait on her the next morning, being resolved not to lose a moment; and flattering herself that she should be able to quit England in less than a month.

In reply to her note, Lady Caroline wrote the following lines :—

“ Come to my arms, my dear, my injured, but always beloved child. Come and restore your parent to that situation which the cruelty and injustice of others have robbed her of. Oh ! my dear Mary, I have a melancholy tale to tell :— but, since I find you kind, I have no doubt but that I shall find you bountiful ; therefore, from this moment, I dismiss all my cares. My dear girl, you must pardon all my errors ; and believe me always tenderly yours.

c. s.”

Mrs.

Mrs. Elliot could not help remarking upon the selfishness and meanness of this letter ; and Mary augured from it but little satisfaction in her visit the next day.

CHAP. XIV.

EARLY the next morning Mary waited on Lady Caroline ; but, when the carriage stopped at the door of the house, and Mary considered the appearance of it, she was struck with the wonderful change that had taken place in the situation of this child of vanity, since last she saw her ; and knowing that all of Lady Caroline's happiness lay in

appearance, she wondered not at the degree of wretchedness she was told had ~~was~~ fallen into.

Instead of the spacious entrance filled with servants in the richest and best-fancied liveries, through which Mary had been accustomed to pass, when she entered the mansion of Lady Caroline, she now crept along a narrow passage, the door of which had been opened by a dirtyish-looking maid servant ; and, ascending a narrow and dark pair of stairs, she was ushered into a miserable-looking room, dignified by the name of the dining-room :—here, upon a squalid sofa, on one side of the small fire place, she beheld her mother !

When Mary had parted from Lady Caroline, the beauty that had so remarkably distinguished her at seventeen, was little diminished at six and thirty.

The

The unremitting care that was dedicated to its preservation, and the elegant and expensive dress with which it was constantly adorned, suffered but few of those depredations that time had committed on it to appear. But the distress, the vexation, the waring passions to which it had since been exposed, had now nearly destroyed every trace of those charms, once so prized by the possessor, and admired by the beholder. The little indications that were left of what they once had been, were observed by the shabby and neglected dress in which Lady Caroline was now clothed; and Mary, on the first sight of her, started, doubtful whether indeed she saw her mother.

Nor was Lady Caroline's surprise and doubt less than that which was felt by Mary. Lady Caroline had not, indeed, ever been able to deny her daughter the attribute of that beauty which was the theme of all who saw her; but she had been accustomed to consider it as a very faint copy of her own

charms ; and the contempt that she had allowed herself to entertain for Mary's abilities, in consequence of her ignorance of those modes of life which, in Lady Caroline's opinion, constituted the whole of human science, had made her always consider her as a very insignificant and despicable being.

When now, therefore, she appeared before her in all the meridian beauty of seven and twenty ; her cheek painted with the softest flush of purest health ; her eye sparkling with intelligence ; her air dignified by conscious rectitude ; and when she considered her as one in whose hands her future happiness, and even subsistence, were placed, she shrank before her, as from the presence of a superior Being ; and, equally mortified and mean-spirited, sinking on the ground, she clasped her arms around her daughter's knees, and cried out, with the accent of miserable deprecation, “ Oh ! forgive me, my much-injured child ! ! ! ”

Mary,

Mary, hastily snatching her from the floor—"Oh! talk not of forgiveness!" exclaimed she.—"I come not to recall the past, but to render the future as happy as I have the means of making it."

Lady Caroline, agitated and trembling, wept bitterly; and Mary, who had upon no occasion seen her so softened, hastily flattered herself that Mrs. Elliot was mistaken; and that misfortune had wrought a change in the mind of Lady Caroline, that would more than indemnify her for all she had undergone.

With the voice of the most sincere tenderness, Mary strove to soothe her afflicted mother.

"Be consoled—be composed, my dearest mother," said she; "your misfortunes are past.—Behold me here with the means and the will to make you happy. You have only

to exert yourself, and you will be in possession of all that constitutes the felicity of life."

" Oh ! what a dear child you are," said Lady Caroline, in a fawning tone.—" How little do I deserve your goodness :—yet, if you knew what I have suffered ! how I have been used ! what a man Sir James was !"

" Let me beg of you, Madam," said Mary, " to forget every resentment ; to banish from your mind all remembrance of the past :—from this moment accustom yourself to look forward : it depends upon yourself alone, from this moment, to be happier than you ever were in your life."

" No, my dear Mary ; my happiness depends upon you, and I shall be proud to owe it to you.—How, amidst the splendor to which you will raise me, shall I look down with contempt on those mean souls, who, in affording me such a dwelling as this, and in clothing me in such garments as these, could imagine that they made a proper provision for Lady Caroline Seabright."

" I

"I cannot promise you splendor in America," returned Mary:—"but I can promise you every comfort and every convenience that affluence can bestow."

"In America!" cried Lady Caroline, faintly; "in America, did you say?"

"Assuredly I did," replied Mary: "did you not know, Madam, that my residence was in America?"

"Yes," said Lady Caroline; but surely mine is not to be there."

"If you will accept of assistance from my hand," replied Mary, "it is only in America that I can give it."

"Then," cried Lady Caroline, with vehemence, "it will be useless! Is this your boasted kindness? Do you think I will go to America?"

"Why should you not?" returned Mary, calmly.—"It is in America I have found that happiness and that subsistence which was denied me in Europe; and there I can bestow both upon you."

" If you sincerely wished to bestow either," said Lady Caroline, " you would not shock me with such a proposal. What could be easier, than that you should make me a handsome allowance, and leave me here amidst my old friends, and in the enjoyment of all that makes life desirable."

" Nothing would be more *impossible*," returned Mary ; " my riches do not consist in what is portable ; they are stationary as the earth from which they spring. I can pour them upon you in profusion, in America, but I cannot transmit them to England.—" " Of what use are they then ?" said Lady Caroline, fullenly.

" Of *all* use," replied Mary ; " not alone good in themselves ; but the means by which we acquire them are the sources of the purest delight, and the most rational enjoyment.— Could you see with what hilarity each individual rises to his work, and with what cordial frankness we assemble in our sugar groves, when the busines of the day is over, listening,

listening, in groups, to the modulated buffoonery of the mocking bird, or dancing on the chequered turf to the sound of the pipe or the flute ; while our older friends, seated round us, recount the exploits of their younger days, or disseminate information, or useful instruction ;—could you see such scenes as these, you would not question the use of our opulence, or the effect it has upon our happiness.”

“ But,” said Lady Caroline, fearfully, “ are you really occupied through the day ? And is the evening the only time when you can enjoy yourself ?”

“ I enjoy myself the most, when most occupied,” replied Mary.—“ What is the true dignity of man but usefulness ? Yes, my dear Madam, according to the season of the year, I lead out my women and their children to the sugar groves, assigning to each their task, which is executed amidst songs and good-natured raillery ; or we gather and shell the sun flower seeds, from which is extracted an oil, sweet and palatable as the best

olive oil; or we regulate our flax and cotton, each taking her share of the business of providing for the clothing of the family.—The instruction of my children also occupies a part of my time, and the rest is filled up with domestic duties, 'till the joyful hours of evening come, which are passed in instructive or amusing reading, in music, and dance, and conversation. Such are the pleasures of the country to which I invite you, which have for their * basis hospitality, and all the variety of good things that a luxuriant soil is capable of affording, without the alloy of that distress and anxiety which is produced by the scarcity or dearness of the comforts of life."

"And is every body," said Lady Caroline, with something of contempt in her tone, "equally happy?"

"To say that disappointment or misfortune are banished from the fruitful and flowery plains of Kentucky," returned Mary, "would be to say what never can be true of

* Imlay.

the habitations of man ; but I may safely aver, that there is less of both in these happy regions than in any other part of the earth with which I am acquainted. A sufficiency of the necessaries of life may be acquired by any one who can, in the least, endure trouble or fatigue. The fear of hunger and nakedness need not assail any one who has the use of his limbs : every one works for himself, and all work is sure of its due recompence."

" Work !" said Lady Caroline, with a tone of mingled contempt and horror."

" My dear Madam," cried Mary, " cleanliness, health, plenty, and cheerfulness, are the offspring of Industry.—Look around, and inform yourself what are the consequences of an inability or disinclination to labour : but *you* shall not work ; contrary habits, long confirmed, have deprived you of the bodily powers necessary to active employment, and robbed you of the sentiment which makes employment the purest and most exquisite pleasure. We will work for you ; and the thought of the comforts and ease

ease we thereby procure you will add fresh zest to the relish we all have for productive industry." "And with what sort of people do you associate? and what are their manners?" asked Lady Caroline.

"The rich and the poor are not so far removed from each other as in Europe," replied Mary.—"We are a people of cultivators scattered over an immense country, communicating with each other by the means of good roads and navigable rivers, and united by the silken bands of good government. A pleasing uniformity of decent competence appears throughout. It may perhaps take some time to be reconciled to our dictionary, which, however, is but short in words of dignity and names of honour.—We have no princes, dukes, or lords:—the title of farmer is the only appellation of the rural inhabitant of our country: we are civil, but not servile: all will shew the marks of respect and complaisance; but all expect to meet with the same in return."

"All

“ All this may be extremely agreeable,” said Lady Caroline, in a courtly accent, “ to those who are used to it ; but my habits have been long fixed. I fear I shall never be able to be happy amongst such worthy people : but if you, my dear Mary, could spare a little from this superfluity of blis and opulence, to give ease to your parent in her native country, and give it without exacting such a sacrifice as my accompanying you to this America would be, it would then heal the wounds of my bleeding heart, by the reflection that I was *indeed* an object of interest to my own child.”

“ Ah ! Madam,” cried Mary, “ how cruel is this insinuation.—“ All I can do to satisfy your every wish, I hope you will still give me an opportunity of proving that I *will* do ; but impose not upon me impossibilities, lest you should suffer from a false notion, that my will to serve you is bounded otherwise than by my power.”

“ I cannot understand what those riches can be,” said Lady Caroline, “ that cannot be

be transmitted from one country to another. In my opinion, if you have not money, you can be rich nowhere : if you have, you can be rich anywhere."

"Could I but, for an instant, transport you to America," replied Mary, "you would comprehend all this in a moment :—you would there be witness of a prosperity and affluence that it is not possible to conceive without beholding ; because it is totally different from that prosperity, and that affluence which is to be seen in Europe.— Money is with you the sign of wealth :—we possess the thing itself : we have no occasion to send afar to purchase all we desire : our luxuries and delights are at our doors : we do not send for our deserts a thousand miles : and, were we to do so, the thoughts how they were procured would spoil their relish. Our dainties are not the product of the hot-house, or the offspring of a ruinous expence ; which, the more plentiful they are to a few individuals, raised above the common level, mark still more the cruel inequality between creatures

creatures of the same species: they are almost the spontaneous gift of the soil we tread, and common to all: or, if they require somewhat of our tending care, it is not more than sufficient to make them still more acceptable to us; as we consider them not merely as a treat, but as the reward of our labours. I cannot but believe, my dear Madam, that, were you once to breathe the pure air of Kentucky, the happy rival of the most favoured climates,—were you to experience our lengthened summer, and our momentary winter,—were you to taste of the variety of exquisite fruits, and see spread before you our profusion of fragrant and beautiful flowers,—every prejudice would be overcome, and you would bless the hour when you quitted the smoke and dirt of this noisy town, for the quiet, the perfume, the purity of the plains of Kentucky."

"It is somewhat a hazardous experiment to make," replied Lady Caroline:—"and I am so good a patriot, that, with all its faults,

I love dear England beyond every other spot upon the globe."

"But why," said Mary, "should emigration appear so strange or so formidable to you, Madam? have you not tried it? and did it not answer all your expectations?"

"Ah!" cried Lady Caroline, "where is the comparison between the emigration to which you now urge me, and that which I once experienced! When I was first compelled to quit dear England by the hard-heartedness of my parents, it was not such allurements as those that you hold out that made the cruel necessity supportable. I was going to a land where gold and diamonds grew;—a land where riches give all that is desirable in life, command—respect—luxury: I was going, where, if we were lucky, I was to be a little queen. We were lucky, and I was a queen. I might have been one still; but that the strange extravagance of Sir James—but, if I think, I shall go mad. How unlike to such prospects are those to which you now hold out

out to me—industry, equality, affluence.—Affluence!—It is a word to express the plenty of a purse-proud shopkeeper, or the overflowing barns and milk pails of a farmer.”

Mary could not wholly repress the indignation and contempt that she felt at this speech.

“ And what,” cried she, “ is become of that gold or those diamonds so much preferred to an affluence, at once the offspring and the reward of virtue? They are dissipated—they are gone—evanescent as the joys they could bestow. I wish not (added she, softening as she spoke) to suggest the remorse, the regret, the grief they have left behind: but, that such experience should be vain, is, I confess, to me inconceivable. But I have done.—You spoke of my *exacting* a sacrifice just now. I exact nothing: I will not even urge you to any thing so disagreeable and so hateful to you as it seems it would be, to pass the rest of your days in the bosom

of

of peace and plenty, surrounded by the rising offspring of your only child. That I have left a home, where every passing hour was marked with some new delight ; that I have traversed mountains, and crossed seas, to offer you all the assistance and consolation in my power, was *but* my duty : I claim no merit from it : I shall return with a satisfied mind, and an approving conscience : and, however it might have increased my happiness, had I been able to have prevailed upon you to have accompanied me, I flatter myself, it will be no diminution to that which I knew before, that I have made the experiment in vain."

Mary then arose, and was going to ask permission of Lady Caroline to attend her once again, before she left England, when Lady Caroline caught hold of her hand, saying, "Don't leave me :—tell me truly, and upon your word, can you do nothing for me, if I remain in England ?"

"Nothing

"Nothing, upon my honour," said Mary.—"The money with which I have furnished myself for this journey, has not been procured but with some inconvenience, and I should not be able to transmit to you forty pounds a year."

"Alas!" cried Lady Caroline, "how all my golden visions disappear. They told me that you were rich: I thought riches had been the same in all parts of the world, and figured to myself, that the assistance you were represented as so willing to afford me would be administered in the form I had been accustomed to: but, if this is not so, what—what can I do?"

"You are not in a worse situation, Madam," replied Mary, "than you were before you had thus unfortunately deceived yourself. Those friends that have supported you will support you still: you may still enjoy their friendship, and continue those habits of life which make to you all its happiness."

"Do you know," said Lady Caroline, fiercely, "that you speak daggers to me?—

Friends!

Friends! What friends have I? base and treacherous as all whom I called by that name have proved themselves? What habits of life are not broken? What happiness remains for me? Do you not know that I am a miserable pensioner? The receiver of a scanty pittance, unwillingly yielded, small as it is, and doled out to me drop by drop—guinea by guinea, as if I were an infant or a drivler; and yet you insult me with talking of friends—of happiness."

"Far be it from me to intend to insult you," said Mary.—"I understood that you talked to me of old friends and old habits, that it would be painful to you to quit:—but if your situation is such as you describe, how can it be that you hesitate to change it for that I offer you?"

"If I could resolve to quit my country," said Lady Caroline, "how can I consent to forego my religion? I have been told that there are no bishops, no regular church in America. Think you I will associate with fanatical baptists and gloomy presbyterians?"

Mary

Mary could not suppress a smile at this objection.

"Come, my dear Madam," said she, gaily, "I now begin to hope I shall carry you with me to America. Be assured, that I am neither a baptist nor a presbyterian ;— and if you recollect that you used to ridicule me for my piety, you may rest contented that I should not be happy in *any* country where I could not regularly serve my God in the way I preferred."

"And are *things of that sort* carried on with any decorum?" coldly asked Lady Caroline

"I mean not to exalt my country falsely, or at the expence of any other," said Mary ; "and perhaps here it may not be thought a praise : but I verily believe, where there is one person in Europe under the influence of a religious sentiment, there are ten in America."

"Well, we need not then talk any more on that subject," replied Lady Caroline :—

"but

"but there is another much more interesting ;—those horrid Indians ! I should never be able to sleep a moment in my bed, from the fear of them."

" Yet I think I can insure you," replied Mary, " from seeing the face of any Indian, except in my own family ; you will find one there —Poor Quashabo ! the most intelligent and grateful of human beings. At fourteen, she had more than repaid me for six years support and care ; and now I can delegate to her half my solicitudes for a group of little beings who belong to our labourers and servants, and whom it is a part of my duty to see well taught and taken care of."

" And shall Quashabo wait upon me ?" said Lady Caroline.—" Such an attendant would bring to my mind the time I spent in India."

" Quashabo will be happy to attend you," said Mary ; " nor can you have a more adroit or willing hand-maid."

Lady Caroline now fell into a reverie, which Mary thought it not adviseable to interrupt. At length, awaking, as it were, from her state of reflection, "I will speak plainly to you," said she.—"I am, in my present situation, the most miserable of creatures. I am sensible my health is falling a sacrifice to the disorder of my mind; and I think I should hardly have lived till now, had I not lately been supported by the hope that you would redeem me from my present dependance, and restore me to that splendor, from which the unpardonable folly of your father has hurled me. Such a hope I find is vain: but I have not only encouraged it myself, but communicated it to all those insolent people who call themselves my friends, and take a pleasure in triumphing over my misfortunes. I shall never survive the disgrace of sinking again into their power. I will therefore accompany you, little as I can hope for peace of mind, or even a shadow of happiness amongst the savages with whom I am henceforth to associate: but, if I am

destined to die of chagrin, better I do so—far, far distant from that sphere where I once shone a star of the first lustre, than that all who once knew me should witness my fall, never to rise again. But, poor as you say you are, how are we to procure the common necessities of life, until we arrive at this fairy land of yours, where fruits and flowers spring with a wish, and meat runs about ready roasted?"

"I will allow you all your prejudices," replied Mary, smiling, "on this side the Atlantic, certain that you will abjure them when once you arrive in America: but my poverty, with which you reproach me, does not preclude the enjoyment of all that is necessary to the comforts of life, even in this country of gold and silver. I have provided myself with a small stock of money; with a part of it we will furnish a chest with all the comforts and indulgences that you will point out:—it shall be considered as your medicine chest, and kept solely for your use. From time to time we shall be able to replenish this chest;

and, with the addition of our own luxuries, I cannot help flattering myself, that you will not find yourself destitute of the comforts, and even the gratifications of life."

It was not possible but that the sweet and amiable manners of Mary should win even upon the selfish and cold heart of Lady Caroline.

As she uttered these last words, Lady Caroline embraced her with tenderness, and said, "If I am to be happy, my dear love, it must be from the reflection that I am the mother of so exemplary a daughter.—Ah! my dear Mary, how much better are you to me than I deserve!"

A single expression of this kind seemed to Mary to repay her for all the pains she had taken. She returned her mother's carefles with interest, and once more admitted the sweet hope into her breast, that she might indeed be the instrument of that happiness

to her parent, which is founded on the rectitude of the mind, and the feelings of the heart.

CHAP. XV.

MARY and Lady Caroline continued to converse together for a considerable time on the preparations necessary for their voyage, and the expedition that it was so desirable to Mary to make in forwarding them.

Lady Caroline, having once resolved to quit England, did not appear to have any desire to delay the moment of her departure, and

and readily engaged to hasten all she had to do, as much as it was possible.

Mrs. Elliot interrupted this *tête-à-tête*, and was equally surprised and satisfied to find Lady Caroline apparently so reasonable :— yet it was evident, that this appearance of reason sprung more from the desire to fly from the evils that threatened her in England, than from any hope of the happiness that might await her in America. The love of project and adventure had, however, always made a part of her character ; and, provided she could talk of herself, and display her consequence, or deplore her misfortunes, it seemed, while she continued to talk, that she cared little what were the circumstances that furnished her with the subject.

At Mrs. Elliot's request she accompanied her and Mary to dinner, and engaged to pass the remainder of the day with them ; taking, for the present moment, the tone of

not being able to part, for an instant, with Mary from her sight.

In the evening their party was joined by Lord St. Albans, who lost no opportunity of availing himself of the privilege Mrs. Elliot had given him, of visiting her whenever he pleased, while Mary remained in England.

The sight of her, so much more lovely even than when he had parted from her ;—her beauty stamped, too, with a character that spoke it but the outward sign of an exalted understanding and an incomparable heart, and adorned by a complaisance and obligingness of address towards him which she had never shewn before, had awaked in his bosom all the ardour of his former passion : an ardour, perhaps, not the less lively, from his being now the husband of another woman ; a woman who, with a form and features that might have vied with Mary's, had taught Lord St. Albans, by heavy experience, that beauty was not the only, or even

even the most essential qualification in a wife.

Mary, however, suspected not that he was married ; and Mrs. Elliot, habituated to the manners of Europe, saw nothing extraordinary or reprehensible in the admiration that he so openly expressed for Mary.

The conversation fell naturally upon America ; and Mary was called upon to confirm or contradict the accounts of its wonderful advance in opulence and improvements, with which all Europe began to be filled.

"I am not so simple," said Mary, laughing "as to believe that the histories which truth will exact from me will find credit.—The advances that have been made in America in wealth, and all that wealth can give, must be seen to be believed. I speak not of the Maritime states ; for of those, I know by experience, nothing ; but of my own beloved Kentucky, that earthly paradise, if

ever there were a paradise on earth, I ought to have the eloquence of him whom America once ranked first amongst her warmest friends, to depicture it as it deserves ; to persuade you of the wonders that liberty, established on the basis of agriculture, has wrought in its happy regions.

" All the effects that the efforts of a *government, whose annual income exceeds six millions, can produce ; all that the benevolence of an Empress, whose privy purse has a yearly supply of eight hundred thousand pounds, can bestow, is trifling, is ineffectual, when compared with that which honest industry, inspired with the breath of freedom, can bring to pass. Thirty years has the great Catherine (so I think you call her in Europe) been endeavouring, by exhortations, by largesses—by compulsion, to improve the agriculture and commerce of her dominions ; and the face of the country, I am told, remains much the same as when she ascended the throne ; except, indeed, those

* Russia.

those parts of it which her wars have depopulated; but the subjects of the great Catherine are slaves:—without the assistance of government; without the munificence of a royal privy purse; untutored by exhortation; unbribed by largesses; unmoved by compulsion; and, in spite of the opposition of contending nations,* eleven years were sufficient to convert the wilderness of Kentucky, inhabited only by savage animals, and more savage men, into an extensive and well cultivated settlement, abounding in every necessary, and almost every luxury of life, where agriculture and commerce every day make such rapid advances as are unexampled in history, and are only credited by those who have witnessed them; but the inhabitants of Kentucky are free.”

In uttering these words, the countenance of Mary became uncommonly animated, and she pressed the hand of Lady Caroline between hers, with an energy she was as little

conscious of herself, as the cause of it was understood by the person who felt it.

"Charming!" said Lord St. Albans.

"Charming?" repeated Lady Caroline.
"Why charming? For my part, I don't know what you mean by *free*. I am sure I never desire to be more free than I was some years ago, when I could have every thing I wished, and could make every body I had to deal with submit to my will. I much doubt whether I shall find any such freedom in America."

"Oh! most assuredly you will *not* find it," said Mary; "every body there has a will of their own, which they submit to reason alone."

Mrs. Elliot laughed.

"Glorious enthusiasm!" said she, "you will find it difficult to persuade me there is one spot under Heaven worthy of being preferred to old England."

"Oh!"

“ Oh ! ” returned Mary, “ I am content to be looked upon as mad, while I know all that I say is founded upon the most sober truth : but why should what I say be so incredible ? Cast your eyes upon the map, and you will see that we have on all sides a communication with the whole globe. Situated in the centre of the earth ; governing by the laws of reason and humanity, we seem calculated to become at once the emporium and protectors of the world. Consider the progressive increase of population beyond all European calculation, founded as that is upon the late marriages, and the frequent celibacy which the difficulty of subsistence makes necessary there, with the dreadful desolation occasioned by devouring wars ;—the offspring of ambition or revenge ; or similar, perhaps, in their motive to the Neapolitan viceroy’s policy, who introduced the plague amongst his people, that he might thin his revolting subjects. With us, every man of one or two and twenty has a rising family around him. Our unfortunate contests with the Indians,

which are the only wars we have to fear, shock more our humanity than lessen our numbers ; and this warfare has now nearly ceased. While enjoying all the commercial advantage of an extended inland navigation, we are at the same time secure from those disasters that attend hazardous voyages, and long separations between the husband and the wife. It is upon these data that the most intelligent people amongst us assert, that our population must double every fifteen years. If the astonishing magnitude of the objects which the powers of our situation embrace, dazzle and confound your senses, as I confess they do mine ; contract your view, and you will find every blessing and charm of life springing up at your feet, and spreading wide, until the prospect is again lost in immensity."

"But all this," said Lady Caroline, "is only to be the fruit of laborious industry ;— words that I confess have no charms for me."

" Yet," said Mary, " I read only this morning, in a book that I found lying upon the

the table, these words :—“ They who are ambitious of stations, in which there are no duties to perform, and no incitements to exertion, must not expect to possess that constant cheerfulness which is the solace of toil, and the reward of useful activity. Providence (continues this sensible writer) surely never intended to make such a difference between creatures of its hand, as that some should live only to enjoy while others live,—only to be the ministers of their enjoyments : and though, in an advanced state of society, many must be exempted from the sentence of eating their bread in the sweat of their brow, yet it is an *immutable* decree, that the oil of gladness shall brighten the face of industry alone.”

“ Upon my honour,” said Lord St. Albans, “ if you go on much longer, I shall lay aside my rank and my titles, and turn American farmer.”

“ And what will Lady St. Albans say to that ? ” asked Lady Caroline.

“ *Lady St. Albans !* ” repeated Mary, with astonishment.

“ Did

"Did you not know that Lord St. Albans was married?" said Mrs. Elliot.

"No," returned Mary; "but now I do know it, I will venture to advise his lordship to stay where he is; he is by no means suited to the manners of Kentucky."

So extraordinary, indeed, did it appear to Mary, that a married man should assume the air of gallantry and freedom that distinguished Lord St. Albans; that this discovery, in spite of herself, threw a coldness and reserve into her manner towards him, that mortified him extremely, and prompted him soon after to take his leave, and seek a society where his attentions would not be the worse received because he was married.

Mrs. Elliot rallied Mary a little on the chagrin she had betrayed on the discovery of Lord St. Albans marriage, and asked her whether it proceeded from prudery or resentment, that he had at last thrown off her chains?

"Neither

"Neither from the one nor the other," replied Mary, "but simply from surprise.—I have been so many years accustomed to manners, arising from the pure maxims of reason and virtue, that I had forgotten the more licentious customs to which I was once a witness, and amongst which, I now recollect, that the engagement of marriage with one woman was no impediment to an avowed attachment to another. I shall be more on my guard for the future, and shall endeavour not to disgrace you a second time with my rusticity."

"But why," asked Mrs. Elliot, "should you be more displeased with Lord St. Albans attentions to you, now you know he is married, than you were, while, though you supposed him single, you know yourself to be a wife?"

"Oh!" cried Mary, "there is surely a very sensible difference.—The obliging satisfaction that Lord St. Albans shewed, on meeting again a woman, for whom he had once expressed so decided a preference, could
not

not call, on her part, for either frowns or coldness, while she had no reason to believe there was any other who had a right to his undivided affections: but, if Lady St. Albans would have been pained by Lord St. Albans evident admiration of a former favourite, that admiration was criminal and unkind on the part of Lord St. Albans, and ought to be repressed by every one who would wish to discountenance impropriety."

"On that subject you may be quite easy," said Lady Caroline.—"Take my word for it, if Lord St. Albans were to accompany you to America to-morrow, Lady St. Albans would not care sixpence about the matter."

Mary made no reply: but such a specimen of the manners and morals of Europe did not lessen her impatience to return again to the bosom of her family, under the shades of a Kentucky wilderness.

Lady Caroline passed the rest of the evening with Mrs. Elliot and Mary, in sullenness,

regrets,

regrets, and lamentations ; and the next morning, having borrowed Mrs. Elliot's carriage, drove all over the town to inform her acquaintance, that she was the happiest creature in the world : that her beloved daughter was arrived in England, with whom she was to return to America, where, with this daughter, mistress of countless acres, she was to repose on beds of never fading flowers, and to regale on fruits of the most exquisite flavour.

She was willing to pardon the envy of her friends, she obligingly added ; but she could not forgive any one who would make any attempt to detain her from such a terrestrial paradise.

Her clemency, however, was not put to the trial ; no such attempt was made ; and Lady Caroline, after detailing a happiness which every one saw she did not credit, returned to her melancholy lodging, there to brood over her regret and disappointment alone.

CHAP. XVI.

MARY had written, immediately on her arrival in England, to her dear Anna, who hastened to town, that she might spend with her every hour possible. The meeting of these two friends was attended by the sincerest pleasure on both sides, and the hours proved too short for each to hear, and to tell what they mutually desired to know. Not was Anna the only person who was desirous to see Mary. Every one, who had ever known her, was eager to renew their acquaintance with a person, who, from the peculiarity of

of her sentiments, and the uncommon incidents of her life, was looked upon as a prodigy. Many were curious to hear details of a part of the world, the very existence of which, some few years ago, was unknown in Europe, and where yet the accounts of its fertility, beauty, and opulence, were treated as fictitious. Mary satisfied all, as far as she was able, with equal good humour and readiness; and, while the men were enamoured of her beauty and understanding, the women could not help expressing their astonishment, that the wife of an American farmer, buried deep in the bosom of an almost unknown wilderness, should rival them in politeness, in address, and eloquence.

In the mean time, she never, for a moment, lost sight of her desire to return, with all the expedition possible, to her beloved America; and, for the furthering her wishes, she held frequent communications with Mr. Eddows. She soon heard, with unfeigned satisfaction,

satisfaction, that if she could be ready to return within a fortnight, he could take a passage for her in a ship bound for Baltimore.

"I will be ready," cried Mary; "my heart sickens at the thought of delay; I long to be once more beyond our sheltering mountains; far from that cry of madness, ambition, and revenge, which now sounds through Europe. Never more I hope to look on details of horror, which here I cannot open my eyes without beholding. My faculties are suspended; my powers droop in this artificial life of idleness and vacuity. How do I long to rise each morning to some appropriate duty, and to close each evening in the circle of my family."

Mr. Eddows felt a desire little less ardent than Mary to return to Kentucky and Agatha; and it was agreed between them, that Lady Caroline should be informed that they must quit England in a fortnight. This intelligence was received by Lady Caroline with perfect

perfect *sang froid*: being convinced that there were no means of averting her fate, not one individual having made any effort to detain her in England, she seemed indifferent how soon she submitted to it. Her relations, who had hitherto contributed to her support, happy to have the burthen of her subsistence removed, subscribed a very competent sum for her equipment in every necessary and comfort that she could desire ;— and she had spent most of her time, since she had resolved to accompany Mary to America, in driving from shop to shop ; happy once more to spend money ; careless whether or not it was to any useful purpose.

Mary ventured sometimes gently to remonstrate, representing how unnecessary it was to lay in stores of such things as she might be well supplied with in America from time to time, as she might want them ; but Lady Caroline resolved to believe, or effect to believe, that she could not be accommodated

accommodated there with any thing to her liking.

"In my own family," said Mary, "I can furnish you with every article of apparel."

Lady Caroline, who, however she boasted to her acquaintance of the luxuries and delights to which she was going, never failed to treat Mary with grumbling and repining, replied, with an air of disdain, "Is your family then a company of artisans and mechanics?"

"No," said Mary; "but in the distant settlements of America there are few people who do not understand something of every thing. It is true, that the variety of occupations that fall to the lot of each, may prevent us from being very skilful in any.—Those who spin, weave, and make their own garments; who dress the leather, and form the shoe; who dig the one from the mire, refine, and fashion it into implements of labour, will probably never arrive at perfection in any one single branch of those various arts: but, though not the best of weavers,

shoemakers,

shoemakers, or smiths, they will, generally speaking, be more intelligent beings than a person who passes his whole life at his loom, his last, or his anvil ; and this is verified by experience in our settlers. The necessity of thinking and acting always for themselves makes them fruitful in expedients, adroit in action, and never at a loss in whatever circumstance they fall into.”

Lady Caroline listened with a careless air, yawned, and went to purchase more gowns, petticoats, and shoes.

The time, however, at length arrived, when all these preparations were completed : the ship was ready to sail ; and Mary learnt, with infinite satisfaction, that she was at liberty to depart.

She took leave of the few persons to whom she was sincerely attached with an unfeigned grief ; and, as she held them to her bosom, lamented that the world was so wide, or that,

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in some one corner of it, all who really loved each other could not assemble together.

Very different were the feelings of Lady Caroline. There was not a human being from whom it gave her a moment's pain to be separated, although she knew the separation was for ever. She had not the adieu of friendship to make; her tears flowed not from that generous feeling which communicates even to the bitter moments of parting, a sensation not wholly undelightful.— Wounded pride, mortified vanity, and disappointed ambition, agitated her breast.— In full silence, and angry regret, she regarded those objects which she was to see no more; and, not deigning to return even the cold compliments of thanks, to the good wishes for her happiness, expressed by Mrs. Elliot and Anna, she hastily withdrew her hands from theirs, and hurried to the carriage that was waiting. Mary, all in tears, again and again embraced her friends with sensations of grief, she wondered why she should

should feel, when returning to America and William ; and, as they clung around her, still more afflicted than herself, she had not force to disengage herself from their caresses. Part, however, they must ; and, making a powerful effort, having clasped first one and then the other of them to her heart, she sprung into the carriage, and was driven away.

Mary indulged her grief until they arrived at the ship : nor did she suffer any interruption from Lady Caroline, who maintained the most obstinate silence ; while every now and then a solitary tear stole down her now pale and then burning cheek.

At the ship they were met by Mr. Eddows ; the sails were already unfurled ; they went aboard immediately ; and, finding that the attention of Mr. Eddows had provided an entertainment for them in the cabin, Mary wiped away her tears, resumed her cheerfulness, and strove, by every means in

her power, to communicate a part of her serenity to her ungrateful companion.

Lady Caroline, having now bidden adieu to England ; and, being removed from the observation of all whom her malice or vanity led her to mortify or deceive, had no motive to conceal the malignant repinings that preyed upon her heart. She therefore gave full scope to her regrets and lamentations, and ceased not to weary Mr. Eddows, and to shock Mary, by her unavailing complaints, and selfish and ungrateful sorrow.

Had it been possible that Mary should have repented of an act of duty, she would now certainly have done so, and perhaps have condemned herself for hazarding such an interruption to her domestic felicity as the presence of Lady Caroline threatened it with : but, being accustomed to look to the motive, and not to the event of her actions, she, without disturbing her mind by imagining how she might better have consulted her

her own happiness, turned all her thoughts to the consideration how best she might conciliate Lady Caroline's affections ; and how, by soothing her passions, and awaking anew the hope of future pleasure, she might make her easy in herself, and tolerable to others.

For this purpose, she called forth all the powers of her own mind, and exerted all the arts of tenderness and blandishment of which she was mistress.

She soon found, that, to fix Lady Caroline's attention, she must talk to her of herself ; and therefore she generally talked to her of the various means by which she would endeavour to contribute to her satisfaction in Kentucky. Lady Caroline, in spite of her studied and her genuine sullenness, began to listen to tales, of which she was herself the constant heroine ; and they had not proceeded above half their voyage, before Mary had so far won upon her, as to have restored her to her natural loquacity, which, in the

days of her consequence, formed a very prominent feature in her character.

She now talked perpetually of what *she* should say and do, or *not* do in America, and insensibly imbibing an idea that she should be considered as a person of importance, and be looked up to by people whom she considered as so extremely her inferiors, her vanity grew satisfied, and she became cheerful, and tolerably good humoured.

CHAP. XVII.
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THE shortness of Mary's abode in England had made it impossible that she should communicate with William during her absence ; but it had been agreed, at their separation, that he should meet her on this side the mountains on her return ; and, as it was uncertain whether she would land at Baltimore or Alexandria, it was thought best that he should not advance further than Winchester ; to which place she should, on her landing, immediately proceed, and from

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whence

whence they might return to Kentucky together. The pious duty of Mary seemed to meet its immediate reward, in the quickness with which she performed both her voyages. That day five months, on which she had bidden adieu to William at Alexandria, she again set her foot on American ground at Baltimore.

It was not quite impossible but that she might meet William there, a ship having sailed from England for Philadelphia ten days before she did, by which she had apprised him of the place where she should disembark. It was at least certain that she should find a letter from him at the principal inn : she hastened, therefore, with a beating heart, to this source of intelligence ;— and, as she entered a room of the house, the first object that met her eyes was William. Overcome by an emotion of delight beyond all she had ever felt before, she precipitated herself into his arms, and there fainted away.

William,

William, scarcely more himself than she was, called aloud for assistance ; and, as death alone could long have held her senses in bondage at such a moment, he had soon the exquisite joy of beholding the colour return to the lips and cheeks of his lovely wife, and the mild intelligence of unutterable love sparkle in her eye. A flood of tears now gave to nature a seasonable relief, to which soon composure, and then joy and gaiety, succeeded.

Lady Caroline, unmoved by all that passed, was busied in adjusting her dress, discomposed and foiled by the method in which she had come on shore. But Mary was no sooner perfectly recovered, than taking her hand, she presented her to William.

" My dear William," said she, " this is my mother : " I know it will be as much the study of your life as of mine, to contribute to her happiness and satisfaction in every way possible."

William, saluting Lady Caroline, who, however, remembering he was plebeian born, shrank from his touch ; warmly declared, that nothing could add to the happiness he had long been in possession of, except having it in his power to extend it to Lady Caroline.

Equally cold and polite were the returns which the incorrigible Lady Caroline made to these effusions of genuine benevolence and warm affection ; and almost immediately she inquired of Mary whether they could not retire, “ to make themselves a little decent ;” adding, “ I should be loath to give the people of America such an idea of me, as seeing me in this disorder must impress.”

Mary smiled at the fancied self-importance of her mother ;—and calling a servant, who had accompanied them from England, she consigned Lady Caroline to her care, while she and William withdrew together, that she might satisfy her impatient heart,
by

by almost endless inquiries after her children and her friends.

When Lady Caroline was well dressed, and Mary had, in some degree, appeased her eager desire after information so interesting to her, they met again over a comfortable refreshment, ordered by William; and it was soon agreed that they should set forward the next morning on their journey to Kentucky. Mr. Eddows, impatient to be once again with Agatha, declared his intention of proceeding on horseback by the shortest route, while Lady Caroline sat in fearful expectation of the mode of conveyance that would be offered to her choice. William soon put her out of doubt, by saying, that he hoped she would find herself very well accommodated in a little light covered cart, which he had provided, that would be much more expeditious than a waggon; and, as they had no quantity of heavy baggage, equally convenient; he added, that he had

done all in his power to fit it up commodiously; that the roads and accommodations, for most part of the way, were very good, comfortable every where, and plentifully supplied with provisions; that they would find the people at the inns very civil; and that, though the tract over the mountains was somewhat rough, it was no where in the least difficult to pass; that the distance to Red Stone was not more than 240 miles; and that, from thence, most of their route would be by water, and might rather be called a party of pleasure than a journey.

When Lady Caroline thus heard of travelling 240 miles in a cart, and heard it spoken of as a something more eligible conveyance than what might have been proposed, her heart, little as she expected elegance, or even convenience in her mode of travelling, swelled with vexation, and even with resentment: while Mary, recollecting the happy and pleasant journey she had taken ten years before from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, in a similar

similar manner, cried out, “The words cart and waggon sound uncouth to an European ear, which has been accustomed to hear only of coaches and chaises ; but, be assured, my dear mother, that nothing can rival the ease of the conveyance that is offered you, or the delightful scenes that will arrest your attention at every step.”

“ Unfortunately,” returned Lady Caroline, fullenly, “ I have no great taste for picturesque beauty ; and I have some prejudices in favour of a travelling-coach, fitted out with all the accommodations which London so well knows how to furnish ; but since I am thrown into a land of carts and waggons, and rugged mountains, I must prepare my mind as well as I can for dislocated bones and broken necks.”

William opened his eyes to more than twice their usual size ; so incomprehensible did it appear to him, that such should be the answer to the eager and affectionate desire,

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shewn both by himself and Mary, to give ease and pleasure to their new guest.

But Mary said, with her usual softness and address, pressing Lady Caroline's hand as she spoke, " How natural are all the regrets you feel, on leaving a country where you passed so many happy years : but alas ! you know happiness was not the *permanent* growth of that blessed soil : I trust you will find it the flower of an American desert ;— and when once you have passed this dreaded mountain, I will promise you an uninterrupted repose for the remainder of your life."

Lady Caroline made no reply ; and early in the evening desired to retire to her own room, to prepare for the fatigues of the next day.

These fatigues were, however, wholly imaginary. Mary had added so much to the contrivances of William, in respect to the commodiousness of their little cart, that
Lady

Lady Caroline was obliged to acknowledge that she never travelled with less inconvenience in her life. The newness and grandeur of the scenes around her made some impression even on her callous and insensible mind ; and Mary found it sometimes possible to lead her into conversation upon other subjects besides herself.

Indeed, however inexhaustible the patience of Mary might be in general, in her present circumstances she would have found it impossible to have confined her attention to so insipid and monotonous a topic. It was not only all that she had to communicate to William, or to hear from him, that called her thoughts from the unvaried discourse of Lady Caroline, but every mile that they advanced, she found something to engage her attention, or interest her feelings.

The canals were almost completed, which will nearly unite the Atlantic with the Ohio, and will perfect, with scarcely twenty miles interruption,

interruption, a course of inland navigation unparalleled on the face of the globe. The immense advantages which must result from such a communication to the country of which she was a citizen, and to which she was enthusiastically attached, filled the mind of Mary with the most pleasing reflections. Already she saw her new wildernesses cleared, new settlements arise, and civilization and happiness spreading far and wide over the earth. These contemplations received fresh force, when, after embarking at Red-stone, upon the Mohongahalo, she passed through the fruitful tracts of land which lie between that place and Pittsburg, now formed into the finest meadows in the world, covered with innumerable herds of cattle, and green with perpetual verdure. If she received so much pleasure in beholding the rising prosperity of a country, through which she had never before passed, it will be easily supposed that she viewed, with even more fervent delight, the banks of the Ohio;—when she compared the change that had taken place within

within the ten years that had elapsed since she first passed down that beautiful river--the settlements on the Shannaway, and that of Gallipolis, then scarcely formed, and that of Muskingam, not even thought of, now flourishing and populous, engaged her understanding in tracing the humble rudiments and the embryos of societies, thus spreading every where; and in considering the unnoticed means by which settlements daily increased, and huge forests were converted into pleasing fields, while her philanthropic mind rejoiced over the causes that made so many people happy, and exulted in the singular display of easy subsistence and political felicity that presented itself on every side.

"When my too faithful memory," said she to William, "represents to me those details of desolation, murder, and oppression, to which I was daily compelled to listen, while in Europe; when it recalls to my mind those scenes which I myself witnessed, of splendid

and grand but still bloody and b
poverty;

poverty ; those unavailing struggles of industry against indigence ; that corroding care, or racking anxiety, which the state of society there imposes on every feeling breast, I will think of our beloved country, and will say to myself, there is yet an asylum left on the face of the earth for the persecuted sons of men ; there is yet a spot where the dove-eyed goddess of peace resides ; where industry indeed gives wealth, and wealth affluence ; where the days are passed in cheerfulness, and the nights in repose ; and where no thoughts of to-morrow destroy the pleasures of to-day.”

Lady Caroline had no perception for such reflections as these : yet the newness and beauty of the scene could not fail, in some degree, to engage even her attention ; and, could she have been transported once more into a circle of her London friends, she would have told, in exaggerated terms, and sudden exclamations, of the rapture, the transport, the extatic delight she had felt, in viewing

viewing nature in these her majestic and beautiful robes.

Time, however, passed equally away, amidst the glowing delight of Mary, and the languid approbation of Lady Caroline, and a few days brought their vessel to Limestone. Here, on landing, William and Mary were unexpectedly greeted by Mr. Eddows and Agatha.

The impatience of the latter to see Mary had induced her, immediately on the arrival of her husband, to prevail with him to accompany her to meet the boat at Limestone. Mary flew to her friend with a transport only short of that which she had felt on first rejoining William; and equally curious now as then, overwhelmed her alike with inquiries and questions concerning her children and connexions at Llamamon.

"Hasten thither," cried Agatha, "and witness how you are beloved; the whole neighbourhood

neighbourhood is in raptures at the thoughts of your return ; and the impatience that my mother expresses to see you has awakened (added she, with a smile) all my old jealousy."

Mary wanted no arguments to induce her to make all possible haste to her old abode. They immediately put themselves on their way, and proceeded with all the expedition in their power.

Lady Caroline particularly attracted the notice of Agatha ; but she had not studied her character more than a day and a half, before she could not help exclaiming to Mary, " How much am I obliged to you and Mr. Eddows ; but for you, I too had been a Lady Caroline ! "

The travellers had not advanced far beyond the Blue-lick before every hour brought out some friend or acquaintance to meet them ; and, when they arrived within a few miles

miles of Llamamon, the numbers were so much increased, that their party appeared rather like a triumph than the private return of a single family to their own residence.— Music and song accompanied them the whole way ; and the voice of joy and affection resounded on every side.

Lady Caroline, it must be confessed, made somewhat of an awkward figure amidst the general gratulation, without any former claim to the regard of any one individual ; without the wish to conciliate the future good will of any ; yet she contrived to take her share in these rejoicings, by saying to Mary, “ Upon my word, this is a very gallant manner of welcoming *a stranger* to your country.—Is it a custom ? or am I to consider it as a particular obligation ?”

“ Judge, my dear mother,” replied Mary, “ from the urbanity and hospitality of these happy people, whether you may not be sufficiently blessed amongst us.”

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The blissful moment at length came when Mary arrived at Llamamon—once again held her beloved children to her heart ; and, while tears of transport ran in torrents down her cheeks, she earnestly vowed, that nothing should again ever separate them from her arms.

When these first moments of rapture were over, Mary conducted Lady Caroline to the apartment which had been prepared for her. This was a long wooden building, joining at right angles with one part of the house, and which had been occasionally used as a kind of storehouse. By the care and diligence of Agatha, who had undertaken that every thing should be in order for the reception of Lady Caroline, this building had been converted into two light, spacious, and convenient rooms ; one of which was appropriated for a bed-chamber, and the other fitted up as a sitting room. The windows opened upon a little plot of ground, surrounded by flowering shrubs, and cultivated quite

quite up to the windows with beds of the most beautiful flowers. Agatha's taste, and her desire to oblige, had adorned the rooms with all that she thought could make them gay or alluring. Large jars filled with flowers, a few books fancifully disposed, with several easy chairs, and low sofas, gave at once the idea of elegance and comfort ; and Lady Caroline, who had figured to herself a clumsy square room, with a bed, a table, and perhaps a couple of chairs, as the whole of the furniture, could not help uttering an exclamation of surprise and delight, when she beheld an apartment so much 'beyond her hopes.

" This, my dear mother," said Mary, " is your castle.—Here you may reign with absolute power : the servant whom you have brought with you, and the Indian girl who you expreffed a desire to have as an attendant, will always be ready to obey your orders. If you chuse to eat alone, they shall bring your meals to this apartment ; if you wish

to join the family, you will always find us most heartily glad to receive you : but I intreat you to consider yourself as absolute mistress of your time, your occupations, and your company. You will find my children ready to anticipate every wish, and to contribute to the utmost of their power to your amusement and your happiness ; but they shall never intrude upon you, even with their caresses : your apartment is so distant from the part of the house where the greatest number of the family reside, that I flatter myself you will not be incommoded by the active business which is always going on there ; so that I hope, as you will take no share in this yourself, you will be safe from any inconvenience from it whatever. If, from time to time, you wish for any thing more than you have, you have only to speak, and your desire shall be complied with."

Lady Caroline, who, while Mary spoke, had been occupied in surveying the apartment, and had discovered how cheaply all

that first had struck her had been obtained, languidly replied, "I am much obliged to you; thank you; all will do very well, I dare say. You advertised me that I was not to expect in America the elegances and perfection of Europe; but—but—I dare say I shall be used to all in time."

Mary, who could not wholly repress the natural disgust that arose in her mind on such an instance of ungrateful fastidiousness, replied coolly, she hoped so; and telling Lady Caroline supper would be ready in half an hour, said she would send her servant to assist in adjusting her dress, and then left her.

The little chagrin that Mary felt, on such a proof of the unworthiness of her mother's character, was instantly lost on joining her family and friends in the large room where they were assembled; and, before supper was served, she had wholly forgotten it, and ran away, with her usual cheerfulness and alacrity, to announce to Lady Caroline that
they

they only waited for her to sit down to table.

Lady Caroline came forth in all her dignity and consequence, resolved, from the first, to impress the half-savages of Kentucky with a sense of her superiority ; but she found every one too happy in themselves, and each other, to think much about her : and tho' all were eager to shew her kindness, not one thought of manifesting deference or admiration. Offended with a familiarity which she considered as ill bred, Lady Caroline wrapt herself up in a contemptuous silence ; and, as soon as supper was over, she arose, and curtseying to Mary, she begged leave to retire to her apartment, that she might endeavour to procure some repose after the fatigues of her journey.

" My dear mother, why this form ?" said Mary :—" every body here does as they please. I hope you will rest well ; and tomorrow

morrow I shall have much pleasure in shewing you the beauties of this happy valley."

Lady Caroline again curtseyed; and, making a gentle inclination with her head to the rest of the company, walked majestically away.

Some of the younger part of the society could scarcely forbear laughing; and Agatha whispered Mary, "Lady Caroline wants some of your lessons; but she will have but an uneasy time of it, if she should not prove an apt scholar."

"She will, I fear, never learn to be happy," returned Mary; "in desisting from the path of reason and nature, we lose the road to happiness."

Mary had, indeed, taken too just an estimate of Lady Caroline's mind.

Surrounded by all that makes the felicity of life—affluence, kindness, freedom, a rising

family growing up around her ;—all emulous of contributing to her satisfaction,—she continues, and it may be supposed that she will always continue, the most discontented and repining of creatures.—Without affections,—without taste,—without virtue, in vain are the stores of friendship, of nature, and benevolence, opened to her.—In full unthankfulness and useless regret she pines away her life, a burthen to herself, and a perpetual memento and warning to those around her, of the fatal consequences of the habits of selfishness, idleness, and luxury.

But, if the fate of Lady Caroline warns us what to shun, let the example of William and Mary instruct us what to pursue. Let us consider their felicity not as the romantic vision of an overheated imagination, but as the natural result of their *moderation*, their *industry*, and their *benevolence* ;—and, while we acknowledge that the true dignity of man consists in the *exercise of his reason*, let us not forget that his true happiness arises from his

USEFULNESS.

F I N I S.



